

FBIS

DAILY REPORT

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CONTADORA GROUP OBSERVERS BEGIN FIELD WORK

PA250232 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0023 GMT 25 May 83

[Text] San Jose, 24 May (ACAN-EFE) -- The 11 observers of the Contadora Group who were sent to inspect the Costa Rican-Nicaraguan border began their field work today by flying to the northern part of the country. Their work, as announced by Juan Manuel Castulovich, the Panamanian representative, consists of observation and inspection.

At the request of the eight civilian members and their three military advisers, the government refrained from appointing a retinue to accompany them. However, they were assigned a coordinator chosen by the Security Council and by Colonel Oscar Vidal, director general of the Civil Guard. He is officer Eduardo Mora Fallas, who served with the forces deployed by the OAS on the Salvadoran-Honduran border during the war between those two countries in 1969.

Government spokesmen expressed satisfaction with the presence of the observers sent by the Contadora Group, because they have all demonstrated that they have full knowledge of most of the circumstances and facts regarding the border problems with Nicaragua. The mission, or part of it, will visit Nicaragua as part of its work and will then return to Panama to report to the foreign ministers of the Contadora Group on the results of their work.

ECLA PROPOSES REGIONAL DEBT RENEGOTIATION

PA222352 Paris AFP in Spanish 2048 GMT 21 May 83

[Text] Bogota, 21 May (AFP) -- The international experts meeting convoked by ECLA in Bogota appealed today to the industrialized countries to facilitate the renegotiation of the huge foreign debt of the region. At the end of the 3-day talks, ECLA Director Enrique Iglesias stated that the economic bases are present for proposing such a renegotiation.

"Only an important political action is lacking, considering the magnitude of the Latin American crisis and the serious consequences that would arise if most of the nations of the region ceased to make payments," Iglesias explained.

The delegates agreed in stressing that, despite the large debt -- some \$300 billion -- if Latin America obtains the understanding of the industrialized countries and international credit organizations, it would be possible to obtain a satisfactory renegotiation with broad terms and lower interest rates. The final recommendations of ECLA maintain that the overall renegotiation should be accompanied by a policy of greater commercial cooperation, a new boost to the mechanisms of regional and subregional integration, and more coherent national policies regarding foreign trade.

All of these points will be included in the message that Colombian President Belisario Betancur will send to the upcoming summit of the seven industrialized countries of the world, scheduled to be held soon in the U.S. city of Williamsburg.

Betancur was designated by the delegates gathered in Bogota as Latin American spokesman to that meeting, which will have the participation of the presidents of the United States, France, the FRG, Japan, Great Britain, Italy, and Canada.

PRESIDENT BIGNONE TO TRAVEL TO BELGRADE 4 JUNE

PY250036 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1516 GMT 24 May 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 May (TELAM) -- President Reynaldo Bignone will travel to Belgrade on 4 June to participate in the 6th UNCTAD meeting, Government House sources reported.

In response to the invitation of the Yugoslav Government and to the decision adopted by the Group of 77, preparations are being made for Gen Reynaldo Bignone to act as spokesman for the resolutions which were adopted during the preparatory work sessions held in Buenos Aires this past March.

LABOR UNIONS, UIA WON'T ATTEND ILO CONFERENCE

PY242239 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1250 GMT 24 May 83

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 24 May (NA) -- For the first time in 7 years the Argentine military government will participate in the forthcoming ILO conference without the participation of union and business representatives in the official delegation.

The Argentine Industrial Union [UIA] decided yesterday not to participate in the ILO conference because the two labor federations refuse to participate in the official delegation.

The CGT-Azopardo [General Confederation of Labor on Azopardo Street] yesterday decided not to participate in the official delegation while the CGT-RA [General Confederation of Labor, Republic of Argentina] ratified its position adopted last week that it will send an "unofficial" delegation to Geneva, under its exclusive responsibility.

The businessmen expressed their decision through UIA President Roberto Favelevic, who stated that "to form a tripartite delegation, all three parties must be present," which is not the case here because the labor federations decided not to participate. Favelevic added that he will go to Geneva to participate "in the meeting of the international organization of employers, but the UIA will not participate in the ILO deliberations if a tripartite delegation is not organized, as provided for by the ILO statutes."

The two labor confederations decided yesterday not to attend the meeting called for by the Labor Ministry to designate the labor delegation to go to Geneva. Labor union observers feel that the decision of the union leaders not to participate in the official delegation is the hardest blow received by the Labor Ministry in 7 years of military government.

Bignone Regrets Unions' Decision

PY242344 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1626 GMT 24 May 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 May (DYN) -- Today President Reynaldo Bignone called the CGT-Azopardo [General Confederation of Labor-Azopardo Street] and the CGT-Brasil's [General Confederation of Labor-Brasil Street] [as received] decision not to participate in the official Argentine delegation to the ILO meeting "regrettable." He said, however, that the union leaders' attitudes "do not affect" the government's relations with the labor sector.

Bignone -- who answered reporters' questions in the Government House through Spokesman Eduardo Maschwitz -- said that the labor unions' decision "undoubtedly affects the Argentine representation" to this international organization.

The chief of state said that "the fact that this is taking place exactly at a time when all the necessary steps to carry out the complete political and union normalization of the country are being taken should not go unnoticed." He reaffirmed, however, that the government "has demonstrated its firm desire more than enough" to fulfill the normalization plan.

He also emphasized that government officials "will continue to take the necessary steps" to normalize the union sector, maintaining "total nonparticipation and impartiality on union internal differences."

Asked if it would be possible to ask the labor unions to review their position, he said that "the union leadership knows how the president feels and acts, therefore they are the ones who should think about it and act accordingly." He said that the union leaders' decision is "clearly regrettable" and that he was making this statement "not taking into consideration the internal circumstances affecting the country in general or the labor unions in particular."

POLITICAL LEADERS REACT TO SUBVERSION REPORT

LA PRENSA Report

PY231655 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 21 May 83 p 4

[Text] In commenting on the military junta report on subversive plans that was handed over to them by the Interior Ministry, party leaders Carlos Contin, Francisco Cerro and Francisco Manrique condemned any attempt to place obstacles in the path leading to democracy.

Radical Civic Union President Carlos Contin said that the possible subversive actions and the "rumors of war with Chile or with Great Britain are misleading maneuvers that seek to hinder the institutionalization process."

He remarked that the future government will have to confront two dangers: "That of the armed forces sectors who are willing to once again break the law and that of possible subversive outbursts." "The path leading to democracy is full of obstacles, some of them real, some of them invisible and some nonexistent," Contin said. Civilian leaders must create "an atmosphere of democratic coexistence," he added.

"There must be satisfactory relations between the official sectors and the opposition after the new government comes into office," Contin remarked.

Christian Democratic Party President Francisco Cerro said that "subversion will fail because the path leading to democracy is irreversible." Cerro made these remarks when commenting on the junta report. He warned that "the minority groups within the armed forces" that seek to impede the country's institutionalization "will fail."

He added that any attempt to interrupt the democratization process would be a "foolish adventure" and reiterated that he was convinced that "there will be elections." He said that "claiming that the Beagle Channel dispute is bordering on war and other such claims are maneuvers seeking to justify the cancellation of elections by some sector."

Federal Party leader Francisco Manrique said that "our country is entering a difficult stage where intelligent action will be essential to avoid further mistakes." He explained that he received the junta report and that he was studying it "with an advisory committee."

"The case is serious and deserves careful consideration and prudence," Manrique said.

Antonio Caffiero, former economy minister under the last Peronist administration, said that "he had no evidence whatsoever that any Peronist sector has links with subversion." This was his reply to a question concerning the report that the military junta issued yesterday on the connection between the Peronist Intransigence and Mobilization Movement and the "Montoneros" subversive group.

The presidential hopeful of the Movement for Unity, Solidarity and Organization (MUSO) [Movimiento de Unidad, Solidaridad y Organizacion] warned that "we have already eradicated those violent methods from Peronism."

Caffiero said that the armed forces' announcement of a possible "subversive outburst" was "not convincing." He remarked that he "would be very sorry if it were true because it would put the institutional process in jeopardy."

He also said that, in this opinion, the official report "was very strange, "and he "condemns any coup attempt that may be concealed behind the junta's announcement, accustomed as we are to violence from the two kinds of extremism." In this regard, he noted that "counterinsurgency should not be encouraged" and that "Argentines have no categorical evidence of a subversive outburst."

He made clear that he would have preferred "to adopt a position through the Justicialist Party or through the MUSO, the faction to which I belong."

In conclusion, he said he was waiting for the information that the government would furnish to party leaders.

In turn, the Communist Party press office released a statement charging that the military junta report "is an attempt to stop the people's growing demand that the repressive system and the death squads be dismantled." "We express our solidarity with Doctor Saadi," the Communist statement adds, "because they are using him to attack the democratic and leftist forces with absolutely baseless charges that appear to be an attempt to justify the death of Cambiasso and Pereyra Rossi."

The Communist statement adds that "the country is resting on a powder keg that puts the institutionalization process in jeopardy" and that "before it is too late, political and social sectors must urgently conclude a pact in defense of democracy for the purpose of making sure that elections will be held and that full democracy will prevail."

In commenting on the military junta report, labor leader Juan Jose Taccone said that both "the extreme left and the extreme right have resorted to irrational methods in their attempts to hinder the democratization process."

Taccone said he was not surprised at the alleged subversive plan to kill him because "the men who defend ideals must always run that kind of risk." He recalled "the 7 years of government repression and the kidnapping of Oscar Smtih, my best friend, and 10 delegates of my union."

He remarked that "the military government's repression and the violent actions by immature revolutionaries have led us to reaffirm our Peronist identity."

Concerning the deaths of Osvaldo Cambiasso and Montonero leader Eduardo Pereyra, in an action mentioned by the junta report, Taccone said that this type of event "is harmful to the country's image." "The deaths of Cambiasso and Pereyra Rossi confirm that repression and violence continue with their irrational actions," Taccone concluded.

Skepticism, Criticism Noted

PY241235 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 22 May 83 pp 2, 3

[Passages in capital letters published in boldface]

[Excerpts] The political leaders' reaction to the military junta report on subversive activities ranged between skepticism and criticism. However, they all agreed in criticizing the illegal methods used against subversions and favored court actions to clarify the serious charges contained in the document officially disclosed last Friday. Moreover, a thorough investigation into the deaths of Osvaldo Cambiasso and Eduarodo Pereyra Rossi was demanded.

Rogelio Frigerio, head of the Integration and Development Movement [MID], stated that "THERE IS STILL A LONG WAY TO GO BEFORE WE STOP RECURRING IRREGULARITIES AND VIOLATION OF BASIC RIGHTS. The events show that, in reality, THE COUNTRY IS HEADING TOWARD NEW ACTS OF RASH VIOLENCE. The armed forces, after having announced that subversion had been wiped out from the military point of view, NOW TELL US OF ITS REAPPEARANCE WITH REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS WHICH CANNOT BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY."

Angel Robledo, head of the Justicialist Party, stated that "THE RETURN OF SUBVERSION can be felt in the country. The document produced is similar to that seized at the time when I was a member of the constitutional government, WHICH MAKES ME BELIEVE THAT THE INFORMATION IS TRUE SINCE IT AGREES WITH THAT PRODUCED IN MY TIME.

"However, I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE GOVERNMENT CHOSE THE RIGHT WAY TO DISCLOSE THE INFORMATION; IT SEEMED AS IF IT WERE TRYING TO PROTECT ITSELF. Regarding the threats I have received, they NEITHER SURPRISE NOR WORRY ME. My activities within Peronism automatically make me AN UNDESIRABLE PERSON FOR THE GUERRILLA. Therefore, I could be on their hit list and it seems that they have already been thinking about it. Regarding the CAMBIASSO AND PEREYRA ROSSI case we demand that their KIDNAPPING AND DEATHS be clarified, and we repudiate entirely the ILLEGAL METHOD OF SOLVING THE ISSUE OF JUDICIAL OR POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITIES. If any of them had court charges filed against them they should have been brought to trial and if there were no charges against them then it is obvious that they were just exercising their freedom of expression."

Oscar Alende, leader of the Intransigent Party, said that "what is most worrisome is the origin of this document since it once again shows that the armed forces ARE ENGAGED IN ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES, AS THEY HAVE BEEN DURING THE PAST FEW YEARS. The real truth IS THAT THERE ARE SECTORS WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES THAT DO NOT WANT DEMOCRACY BECAUSE IT WILL AFFECT INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL AND POLITICAL INTERESTS.

Tremendous interests, from within the country and abroad, could undermine the strategy and prevent the holding of elections in Argentina. This document and the groundless charges against VICENTE SAADI, WITH WHOM I SYMPATHIZE, once again prove the danger which exists in this path toward democracy, because the military sectors WILL NOT HESITATE TO OBSTRUCT THIS PATH WHICH THE ENTIRE PEOPLE DEMAND.

Saadi Rejects Charges

PY212320 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1358 GMT 21 May 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 May (NA) -- Vicente Leonidas Saadi, head of the Peronist Intransigence and Mobilization Movement, has threatened to bring the military junta members "before the courts" if they, "hidden behind their usual cowardliness," refuse to engage in the public debate that he proposed to them to prove the charge that he is involved in subversion.

Saadi invited the three commanders to hold "a public debate through a television station" and asked them "to prove their slanderous and false charges," because otherwise "the courts will determine who has committed a crime and who has told a lie."

During a press conference he hosted at his home in Buenos Aires, the former Catamarca State governor used the above harsh words to refute the military junta document on his alleged links with the "Montoneros" subversive group.

The press conference was also attended by former President Vicente Solano Lima, Justicialist leader Reynaldo Romero and a group of leaders of the Peronist Intransigence and Mobilization Movement.

If the commanders agree to engage in a public debate, Saadi remarked, "I will prove that this oligarchic dictatorship has committed robbery, murder and high treason in the Malvinas war, and that it is guilty of corruption and of the destruction of our country."

"They have sought to depict me as a Montonero member," Saadi went on, "although I have nothing to do with them. I do not mean to imply that being a Montonero member brings dishonor to anybody, because the greatest patriots were Montoneros." He added that "the report the junta released this morning is completely false, as is everything this dictatorship has done so far."

According to Saadi, another reason the government released the document was that "they were afraid because for 2 months we had known about their plans to commit the recent murders disguising them as clashes with alleged criminals. But they are the only criminals."

Saadi charged that "this is an intense campaign aimed at dividing Peronism, a campaign in which the vilest methods have been used, such as circulating anonymous leaflets and secret reports charging that I was involved in wretched crimes." "These actions reveal the inability and vileness of eunuchs," he charged.

He remarked that "no matter how hard they try, they are wasting their time because the Argentine people no longer tolerate lies or deception. Their lies will not hurt Peronists."

Saadi anticipated that "Peronists will win the elections and, once in power, will ask the military to account for their deeds and will impose on them the sanctions that they deserve."

He then referred to a meeting he held with Lorenzo Miguel, the head of the 62 Organizations, and with leaders of the CGT-RA [General Confederation of Labor of the Argentine Republic] in which, Saadi said, "we unveiled completely the attack that the dictatorship has launched for the purpose of defeating, one by one, the Justicialist Party factions."

In conclusion, he did not rule out a possible ban on the newspaper LA VOZ, but warned that "if that arbitrary sanction is imposed on the newspaper, we will take the appropriate legal measures." "What really bothers them," he concluded, "is that our newspaper has told the truth and has reported the regime's high treason, robbery, cowardliness and crimes."

JUSTICIALIST ACTION RATIFIES ROBLEDO CANDIDACY

PY241420 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1405 GMT 22 May 83

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 22 May (NA) -- The Coordinating Committee of the Justicialist Action [Coordinadora de Accion Justicialista] ratified today the candidacy of Angel Robledo for president of the republic and termed "auspicious" the candidacy of former Interior Minister Alberto Rocamora for governor of Buenos Aires Province.

This internal faction of the Justicialist Party made these remarks in an advertisement published today by the Buenos Aires newspapers, indicating that the National Council of the Coordinating Committee has decided to "ratify the presidential candidacy of Angel Robledo."

SPLINTER GROUPS UNITE IN NEW PERONIST FACTION

PY241515 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 22 May 83 p 6

[Excerpt] The internal faction Peronist Renewal [Renovacion Peronista] of the Justicialist Party has been established during a ceremony held at the Boxing Federation Building. This new faction is the consequence of an agreement among leaders, militants and members of the following factions in Buenos Aires: Peronist Convocation [Convocatoria Peronista], 17 October Group, 26 July Peronist Trend, Unity and Loyalty Group, and independent sectors.

The executive board of this new faction is made up of Julio Guillan, Abel Cuchietti, Miguel Angel Toma, Ricardo Fabris, Ines Krieger, Amilcar Fidanza, Carlos Campolongo, Fernando Ardura, and Fernando Melillo, among others.

DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS FORM ELECTORAL ALLIANCE

PY240404 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1340 GMT 22 May 83

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 22 May (NA) -- The Democratic Socialist Party [PSD], headed by Americo Ghioldi, has decided to seal an electoral alliance with the Progressive Democracy, thus ending negotiations with other political forces.

The decision was adopted yesterday by the PDS National Council in such a way that it precludes agreements with the Federal Party, FUFEP [Popular Federative Force] and the Popular Line Movement with which the PDS had contacts.

MAS SECRETARY INTERVIEWED ON PARTY PROGRAM

PM241335 Rome AVANTI in Italian 20 May 83 p 7

[Interview with Argentine Movement to Socialism Secretary Ruben Visconti by Giuseppe Pedercini in Rome; date not specified]

[Excerpt] Question: It seems to me that to revive the Argentine economy it will be necessary to tackle in specific terms four major problems at the same time: accumulation, production, pay levels, and the foreign debt. Who can do it?

Answer: Any Kind of real solution is totally incompatible with the proposals of the traditional parties of the national bourgeoisie, which are entirely similar, in essence, to those of the military regime -- in particular, the freezing of real salaries and the reduction of the foreign debt in accordance with IMF dictates. We of the Movement to Socialism [MAS], however, believe that the Argentine economy must and can be developed by means of socialist and democratic planning, whereby it is possible to exploit all the country's resources -- natural, financial, and productive. This must be done with the aim of achieving better and higher productivity in these sectors, at present very badly managed as a result of the pressure of domestic and foreign speculation and corruption. It is enough to consider that in Argentina almost 50 percent of land suitable for exploitation -- 80-90 million hectares -- is not cultivated, while the major manufacturing sectors have diverted production earnings to higher profits deriving from financial speculation. Basically, present output in all sectors barely reaches 40 percent of its potential.

Question: So there must be a new course. With what methods and ideas? I know that you of the MAS have formulated a plan.

Answer: I have already spoken about the plan in general. In order to implement it, the state will have to be left in charge of the major means of the economy, that is, the money, through the nationalization of the banks and, among other things, foreign trade. Also the elimination of large estates. Apart from this, we are requesting and proposing substantial changes in the distribution of profits, the restructuring of the fiscal system, and strict planning of public spending, which must be directed toward the solution of the following major problems: education, health, and housing. What is happening now, however? Just listen: The 1983 budget allocates 17 percent of spending to defense and security and only 2 percent to health. These two figures are enough to demonstrate the extent of the change that will have to be carried out. As for the foreign debt, we are calling for a total moratorium, for a suspension of all capital and interest payments, until the following conditions have been created: the resetting in motion of national economy and the raising of the living standards of the people, who must be guaranteed progressive growth. I believe the central problem is precisely our foreign debt: just consider that the interest alone that Argentina has to pay totals twice the earnings from our annual meat exports.

Question: There is no doubt that the action that the MAS proposes will encounter powerful resistance on the part of consolidated interests both inside and outside the military regime, which will in any case obviously be interconnected and allied. What is your program's political proposal and what is your realistic assessment, divorced from any demagogic and populist ideas?

Answer: The plan that we are proposing is called the "transition plan" and envisages, at the outset, a socialist alternative by means of the people's representation within all democratic bodies and the development of self-management bodies within public enterprises and joint management in private ones. These are the ideas we are putting forward. What is there on the other side? What are the dangers? Well, we believe that the military and the traditional parties have set in motion both a plan for a qualified democracy and a secret, though not so secret, agreement. The aim is an agreement to continue with the socioeconomic status quo without any major changes. Peronists, Radicals, developmentalists, Intransigents, Communists and Christian Democrats have supported the regime ever since the Malvinas defeat. And it seems scandalous to me that there has been an agreement whereby the present regime can continue governing the country until the end of this year, that is, beyond the election results, and that is was not dissolved last year instead. Of course I am also answering an observation of yours: within the parties there are combative minorities that agree with us -- woe betide us if it were not so -- but, unfortunately, for the time being they are only minorities; as we are, for that matter. There is a long way to go.

NAVY SPONSORS EXOCET, ETENDARD EXHIBITION

PY241422 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 24 May 83

[Text] An exhibition on Argentine Navy activities and the performance of the Exocet missile has opened in the office of the Cordoba representative in Buenos Aires.

The exhibition, which is sponsored by the Naval Aviation Institute, also has replicas of Super Etendard planes, including the model A40.

TRADE DELEGATION TO VISIT CUBA IN JUNE

PY241650 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1035 GMT 24 May 83

[Excerpt] Santa Fe, 24 May (TELAM) -- The provincial economy under secretary has reported that according to a report received from the Commerce Secretariat an Argentine trade delegation will be organized to go to Cuba, and that the tentative date for this visit will be the second half of June.

The objective of this mission will be to promote such products as agricultural machinery, transport equipment and parts, other capital assets, food processing plants, ships, iron and steel products, and medical, pharmaceutical, and chemical products.

The date for the visit and the list of products are tentative, because the confirmation of the Argentine economic advisory in Havana is still awaited.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS WORKERS STRIKE ENDS 24 MAY

PY241320 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 24 May 83

[Excerpts] The 24-hour strike [as heard] which left the country without any communications with the interior and abroad has apparently reached a solution, although not a definite one. ENTEL [National Telecommunications Enterprise] workers have demanded a 50 percent participation in the management of this enterprise. The dissatisfaction created by the designation of a new official of DITER [Rural Telecommunications Board] has reportedly been solved. The government has confirmed the current official in his post by principle of authority. (Alacid de la Torre), communications under secretary, told Radio Panamericana that the problems have been solved and that the workers have returned to their jobs.

BENI PREFECT DENIES SHOOTOUT IN SANTA ANA

PY201812 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 20 May 83

[Text] (Erwin Brutner Anez), prefect of Beni Department, has emphatically denied press reports that originated in Santa Ana de Yacuma. Press reports disseminated in eastern Bolivia indicated that there had been skirmishes between military forces and gangs of drug traffickers. Following is a telephone conversation that Radio Illimani had with Prefect (Brutner):

[Begin (Brutner) recording] [Words indistinct] emphatically. Throughout all of yesterday we have been carrying out the appropriate investigation. We have spoken with the mayor of Santa Ana, with the police chief of Santa Ana and with the official in charge of (Asana) [the Bolivian Weather Bureau] of that locality, and the three of them agree that no such incident occurred in Santa Ana as the report from Santa Cruz indicates.

Not content with the abovementioned explanation, we asked the mayor of Santa Ana to continue with the investigation, but he has not been able to find out anything about such an incident. Up to the present time, this is all the information I can give you. [end recording]

ARMED FORCES ORDER RETIREMENT OF COLONEL SALOMON

PY250122 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 21 May 83 p 8

[Excerpt] Yesterday the high military command ordered the mandatory retirement of Colonel Norberto Salomon Soria from the Bolivian Air Force and Armed Forces for violating military regulations. Salomon Soria published an open letter of a political nature related to the military commands, the political situation and the government.

MINISTER DENIES PRESS REPORTS ON DETENTIONS

PY242222 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 24 May 83

[Excerpts] Interior Minister Mario Roncal Antezana has denied press reports that more than 100 persons have been detained, thus repeating repressive actions similar to those practiced during dictatorial regimes.

Roncal Antezana added that former Colonel Norberto Salomon Soria, former Urban and Housing Development minister under previous regimes, had been detained by orders of the district attorney. He has been accused of inciting rebellion against the constitutional government.

The interior minister returned to Government Palace last night after negotiating a strike of bank employees in Santa Cruz which began 17 days ago and after trying to solve a disagreement between two factions of the MNRI [Nationalist Revolutionary Movement of the Left]. Press reports from Santa Cruz stated that members of a faction of the MNRI -- reportedly more than 1,000 members -- have decided to stage a hunger strike, demanding the replacement of the mayor and prefect of the district.

Roncal Antezana stated that the report is not true and that only a few persons are involved in the hunger strike as a result of a party problem which must be solved at that same level. In remarks to the press, he reaffirmed the statement made by Under Secretary Gustavo Sanchez that there was no armed confrontation between civilians and the military in Santa Ana de Yacuma as reported by the Santa Cruz newspaper EL MUNDO.

DROUGHT FORCES AGRICULTURAL EMERGENCY PLAN

PY241400 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 May 83

[Excerpt] The Ministry of Campesino Affairs has begun the first stage of the agricultural emergency plan by granting credits requested by owners of small farms who have decided to tackle winter plantings. Authorities from this ministry have stated that this plan has been put into effect, and added that the main objective is to avoid shortages of agricultural products during this period. In this regard, the government has implemented the entire plan prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Campesino Affairs to try to solve the problems caused by the drought in the altiplano region. These authorities added that one of the first tasks was to comply with the plan for granting credits to small farms to begin winter plantings.

This ministry has also decided to import seeds and fertilizers to be distributed among farmers of the altiplano and valley regions. It has been said that 1 billion Bolivian pesos will be invested in the recovery of agriculture in the country.

BRIEFS

STATE BANK PRESIDENT RESIGNS -- Jose Morales Guillen, president of the state bank, yesterday submitted his resignation to Bolivian President Hernan Siles Zuazo. In his resignation letter, Morales explained that he was being forced to resign because of the general manager's deliberate obstruction of his efforts to implement the government exchange policy. [Summary] [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 15 May 83 p 1 PY]

ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS -- Bolivian President Hernan Siles Zuazo yesterday received the credentials of Ion Ciucu, the new Romanian ambassador to Bolivia. Ciucu is also ambassador to Peru. [Summary] [La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 29 Apr 83 p 3 PY]

AMBASSADOR TO VATICAN -- Carlos Romero Alvarez Garcia, the new Bolivian ambassador to the Vatican, presented his credentials to the pope on 19 May 1983. [La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 May 83 PY]

FIGUEIREDO SPEAKS AT LUNCH FOR SURINAME'S ALIBUX

PY250130 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 24 May 83

[Text] At 1230 today President Figueiredo gave a luncheon for Surinamese Prime Minister Errol Alibux at Itamaraty and decorated him with the Southern Cross order. In his speech, Figueiredo stated that bilateral relations are a valuable instrument for promoting the development of both countries.

[Begin Figueiredo recording] We are welcoming Your Excellency within the framework of the fruitful relations existing between Brazil and Suriname as a significant action which reflects once again the mutual confidence that has prevailed in the dialogue held by our two governments.

We want to strengthen our mutual confidence through specific actions which will require our joint effort to demonstrate that bilateral relations are a valuable instrument for promoting the development of our two countries. The human and natural resources of Brazil and Suriname and the fact that our governments are firmly politically interrelated are essential conditions for promoting broad prospects of furthering bilateral cooperation. [end recording]

After emphasizing that it is well known that the Brazilian position has promoted concord and solidarity in the continent, and that it has maintained that egalitarian cooperation and exchange of experiences among developing countries will be instrumental in promoting peace and prosperity, President Figueiredo referred to the current crisis and stated that it is up to the two countries to develop their mutual areas of interest.

[Begin Figueiredo recording] At this time when we are overwhelmed by a crisis and growing difficulties, we need to build new solid bases for bilateral cooperation. It is up to both Brazilians and Surinamers to undertake the creative action of identifying and developing mutual areas of interest to further our agreements, and to have our political decision of furthering relations between our two peoples materialize into significant achievements. [end recording]

Among the various areas which are being identified for cooperation, Figueiredo noted the possibilities of strengthening trade. [Begin Figueiredo recording] There are also positive possibilities of strengthening the commercial flow by expanding trade of traditional items and by creating opportunities for new items. I am certain that in addition to the above sectors, there are many other areas in which Brazil and Suriname can cooperate. [end recording]

President Figueiredo said it is up to each country to find its own path toward achieving national affirmation to fulfill the just aspirations of its people. He said Brazil will always be ready to cooperate with friendly neighbors. [Begin Figueiredo recording] It is in keeping with this spirit that Brazil hopes sincerely and fraternally that Suriname, within a framework of growing convergence and concord with its South American neighbors, will achieve progress, well-being and national affirmation. Brazil will always be ready to give this friendly neighbor its sincere, effective cooperation in everything it can. [end recording]

President Figueiredo concluded by stating that the visit of Suriname Prime Minister Errol Alibux is viewed by Brazil as an action which reflects the confidence that has prevailed in the dialogue held by their two governments.

[Begin Figueiredo recording] Brazil and Suriname have been exchanging frequent high-level visits. Early in 1982, Foreign Minister Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro had the opportunity of opening a new stage of bilateral relations by making an official visit to Paramaribo. Then Lieutenant Colonel Bouterse and former Foreign Minister Naarendorp visited Brazil. Most recently, my personal envoy Minister Danilo Venturini visited Suriname. Your Excellency's visit is in keeping with the fruitful visits I have just mentioned. [end recording]

Aid Package for Suriname

PY250333 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 24 May 83 p 8

[Text] Brasilia -- "We had a good start," said Surinamese Prime Minister Errol Alibux as he left Itamaraty after a meeting with Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro, and on his way to meet with President Joao Figueiredo. A Brazilian Government source revealed that Brazil has offered Suriname a package of political and economic measures which, nevertheless, will not entirely keep Cuba away from that country, but will serve to offset the Cuban influence.

The source explained that Suriname cannot turn down Cuban assistance because the country is facing a dire shortage of resources. The Brazilian Government understands this situation and, therefore, it will at least try to partly neutralize that influence.

Brazil offered Suriname basic military training courses in Brazilian territory, a broad agreement for technical assistance in agriculture through Embrater [Brazilian Rural Extension and Technical Assistance Enterprise] and other research and training organs. It also proposed to create the post of military attache in the Brazilian Embassy in Paramaribo, to expand the Radam [Amazon Radar] project to Suriname, to carry out aerial photography work in support of geological research, and the establishment of regular shipping lines and airlines between the two countries.

Itamaraty spokesman Bernardo Pericas affirmed that "the political decision to intensify cooperation with Suriname has been made. Of course now we have to provide the means for that cooperation."

Nothing was revealed about the Surinamese prime minister's 30-minute meeting with President Joao Figueiredo in the Planalto Palace, attended also by Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro. The prime minister will grant a press conference today.

Errol Alibux, a young man wearing a Gengis Khan type mustache and spectacles, landed in a cargo plane adapted for carrying passengers at the Brasilia Air Base shortly after midday for a 2-day official visit to Brazil.

He came to Brasilia exactly a week before the Netherlands Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers' official visit. This timing was requested by the Surinamese Government in an attempt to neutralize the complaints which the Hague government will make against the military regime headed by Lieutenant Colonel Daysi Bouterse, who was visited by Minister Danilo Venturini, the National Security Council secretary general, on 15-17 April.

FOREIGN MINISTER ON LIBYAN PLANES, SURINAME

PY250223 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 24 May 83

[Text] Speaking to members of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Chamber of Deputies, Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro today reaffirmed the need for Brazil to maintain relations with Third World countries. Saraiva Guerreiro rejected again criticisms of Brazil's relations with developing countries. He said Brazil can have friendly ties with both Third World and developed countries.

Concerning the incident involving the Libyan planes, Saraiva Guerreiro said there is no international law which could force the Brazilian Government to return the weapons on the same Libyan planes, as demanded by the Libyan Government. He said negotiations are still underway and Brazil hopes to reach a compromise solution with the help of a third country, a friend of both Brazil and Libya.

Concerning the mission accomplished by Minister Danilo Venturini in Suriname, Saraiva Guerreiro conveyed the Brazilian decision to help Suriname end its decolonialization process and become part of Latin America.

CONGRESSMEN REJECT ARGENTINE REPORT ON MISSING

PY250019 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 May 83

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 23 May (EFE) -- The Argentine general consul of Rio de Janeiro, Cesar Antonio Marquez, today received a document repudiating the report on missing persons made by the Argentine military junta.

The document was delivered by a group of Brazilian congressmen who gathered at the entrance of the building where the Argentine Consulate is located, in the Botafogo neighborhood of Rio de Janeiro.

According to the document, the congressmen repudiate the "final document" of the Argentine military junta, a document which says that the 30,000 missing persons, including 99 "kidnapped" children, are dead. The document was signed by federal and regional deputies, councilmen, leaders of organizations and well-known figures of Brazilian public and academic life.

Marquez explained to the congressmen that he had "nothing to say on this matter." He told EFE that the document will be sent to the "appropriate officials."

GALVEAS PREDICTS EXCESS FISCAL DEFICIT

PY240343 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 21 May 83 p 15

[By Fritz Utzerl]

[Excerpts] New York -- Finance Minister Ernane Galveas admitted yesterday that the fiscal deficit should overshoot the target set for this year's first quarter by 10 to 15 percent, that is, from 280 billion to 420 billion cruzeiros more than the 2.8 trillion cruzeiros stipulated under the agreement with the IMF. According to Minister Galveas, Brazil still expects to limit the fiscal deficit to 8.8 trillion cruzeiros this year.

PDS, PTB CONCLUDE CONGRESSIONAL COALITION ACCORD

PY250215 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 24 May 83 p 3

[Excerpt] Brasilia -- Salary readjustments of 100 percent of the INPC [National Consumers Price Index] for workers earning as much as seven minimum salaries per month is the main concession -- of 35 which were demanded -- made to the PTB to conclude an agreement with the PDS, giving President Joao Figueiredo the absolute majority in the Chamber of Deputies through the addition of 13 PTB votes to 235 PDS votes. Only 240 votes are necessary for an absolute majority.

OPPOSITION PARTIES TO DISCUSS COALITION

PY250113 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 24 May 83 p 4

[Excerpt] Brasilia -- Leaders of the PMOB [Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party] the PDT [Democratic Labor Party], and the PT [Workers Party] Freitas Nobre, Bocayuva Cunha and Ailton Soares respectively, will meet today to discuss the creation of an opposition bloc in the Chamber of Deputies to offset the PDS [Social Democratic Party] coalition with the PTB [Brazilian Labor Party], a coalition which ensures majority for the government.

Saying that the PMDB accepts in principle Soares' suggestion to form an opposition bloc, Freitas Nobre observed that the PDS-PTB coalition obliges the opposition parties to work in a more disciplined manner and to be in attendance, because the opposition has lost the majority on the floor and in the standing technical committees and the special joint committees.

Freitas Nobre said that his party does not intend to take advantage of the fact that the PMDB is the largest opposition party and thus entitled to lead the minority. He proposed that the leadership be exercised through a body with the participation of the PT and the PDT.

RAIN CAUSES DAMAGE IN FOUR SOUTHERN STATES

PY242208 Paris AFP in Spanish 1608 GMT 24 May 83

[Text] Sao Paulo, 24 May (AFP) -- After more than a week of continual rains in four Brazilian southern states (Sao Paulo, Parana, Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul), the number of victims is increasing and the losses cannot be calculated.

According to the Civil Defense, the Army and fire departments, the floods have so far caused 27 deaths, the disappearance of 60 persons, and made 25,500 people homeless.

Parana and Santa Catarina states have been most affected by the heavy rains which fell during the last 24 hours. The municipality of Biturana, with a population of 11,000 in the southwest region of Parana, is besieged by water, and the only means of communication with the rest of the country is by police radio. Hundreds of telephone poles and bridges providing access to that region have been washed away.

The situation is critical in the region where the states of Parana and Santa Catarina join. More than 7,000 persons in the municipalities of Porto Uniao, Rio Negrinho, Mafra, Tres Barras and Canoinhas are homeless.

In Rio Grande do Sul the rains let up during the past hours, but the Uruguay River continues to rise along the border with Argentina. The Agricultural Cooperative of Porto Alegre, the capital of the state, has reported that 500,000 tons of soybeans have already been lost and another 500,000 tons are seriously threatened by the water. In the region of Alegrete, Itaqui, Porto Lucena, Porto Wavier and Uruguayana, 500,000 tons of rice have been lost.

The Uruguay River has risen 10.65 meters above its normal level in the city of Uruguayana. In Sao Borja 120 kilometers upstream, the river rose 12.75 meters. The meteorological forecasts are discouraging.

BRIEFS

NEW AMBASSADORS APPOINTED -- Brasilia -- The Brazilian Foreign Ministry revealed today that George Alvares Maciel has been appointed ambassador to the United Nations, Paulo Nocueira Batista will head the permanent Brazilian mission in Geneva, and Dario Castro Alves will leave his post as ambassador in Lisbon to become Brazil's representative to the OAS. [Summary] [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 17 May 83 p 4 PY]

PER CAPITA INCOME DOWN -- Brasilia -- The yearly report of the Brazilian Central Bank released yesterday indicated that the 1.4 percent growth of the gross domestic product [GDP] in 1982 did not compensate for the 2.5 percent growth of the population in the same year. As a result of this, the GDP fell by 1.1 percent in 1982. Considering that per capita income had already experienced a 4.3 percent drop in 1981, after having increased by 5.3 percent in 1980, it appears that each of the 125.1 million Brazilians have had their income reduced by an average of 5.3 percent over the last 2 years. The data used by the central bank to compute the GDP for 1982 are subject to a reevaluation and could change. [Excerpt] [Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 17 May 83 p 33 PY]

MALARIA EPIDEMIC AMONG INDIANS -- Brasilia -- According to a report released yesterday by the Native Missionary Council [CIMI] a malaria epidemic is killing the Indians of Tucuna do Alto Solimoes in Amazonas State. The report revealed that the epidemic started on 29 March this year in the Copercu community where 65 Indians are living. By now five have died for lack of medical care. [Summary] [Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 16 May 83 p 5 PY]

PINOCHET FORMALLY LIFTS BAN ON RADIO COOPERATIVA

PY241930 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 May 83

[Text] President Pinochet has decided to honor the request made by union leaders Guillermo Medina and Manuel Contreras to lift the ban on Radio Cooperativa Vitalicia. A similar request was made by the Association of Chilean Broadcasters, ARCHI.

The social communications agency released the following communique. Quote: The president of the republic has received the requests made by union leaders Guillermo Medina and Manuel Contreras and by ARCHI to lift the ban imposed on Radio Cooperativa Vitalicia.

After hearing the reasons outlined by the mentioned union leaders and for the purpose of attaining the national reunification urged by his excellency in his recent address, the president of the republic has decided to honor the above requests. The decisions will be effective upon notice. Unquote.

NO GROUNDS FOUND FOR LABOR LEADERS' INDICTMENT

PY242218 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0617 GMT 24 May 83

[Text] Santiago, 23 May (EFE) -- Judge Hernan Cereceda has ruled that there is not enough evidence to indict 3 of the 10 leaders of the 22,000-member Copper Workers Union, as requested by the government. Those leaders were taken to court for having organized the national protest day on 11 May.

At the end of individual questioning today the judge hearing the case found no evidence against Manuel Rodriguez, Pedro Rivera and Miguel Abarca, and he said that he will continue questioning the other leaders -- confederation President Rodolfo Sequel among them -- tomorrow.

The leaders are charged with inciting public disorder after calling for a protest demonstration. State counselor and labor leader Guillermo Medina said today, after meeting with President Pinochet, that the government may drop the charges against the labor leaders.

PRESIDENT PINOCHET'S WIFE HOSPITALIZED 22 MAY

PY231520 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 May 83

[Text] Mrs Lucia Iriart de Pinochet has been hospitalized at Military Hospital and placed under observation because of stomach pains. The first lady was taken to the hospital yesterday afternoon. At the hospital Mrs Pinochet will undergo various tests to establish the nature of her illness. This report was officially confirmed by Ramon Suarez, minister secretary general of government.

KIDNAPPERS RELEASE RANSOMED AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN

PA250421 Paris AFP in Spanish 0347 GMT 25 May 83

[Text] Bogota, 24 May (AFP) -- U.S. Businessman Elias Alexander Dower, who was kidnapped here 15 days ago, was released today after a large ransom was paid for him. According to the private radio network RCN, which cited spokesmen of the police secret service, Dower immediately left for the United States. Dower, one of the main shareholders of the Pat Primo Clothes Factory, who was kidnapped by common criminals on 9 May, was released in southwest Bogota after 44 million pesos (approximately \$578,000) were paid for him, the source added.

POLICE REPORT ON RECENT GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES

PA242145 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 24 May 83

[Text] Bogota -- At least 20 persons, including guerrillas, kidnapped persons and common criminals, were killed yesterday in some of the bloodiest battles in the country. According to official reports, Arnulfo, Jesus Alberto and Osvaldo Cardomo Bueno, three young brothers, were killed by presumed guerrillas in Cauca Department after being held for several days by unidentified kidnappers.

Meanwhile, in the vicinity of Puerto Triunfo, on the highway leading from Bogota to Medellin, four unidentified, bullet-riddled bodies were found in a cave.

In Puerto Berrio, in Central Magdalena, presumed members of a FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] cell killed three peasants. Two of them were identified as Luis Alberto Maquilon and Rodolfo Ellis.

In (Rodolfo Valle) municipality, in Providencia, an attack was launched against the policemen guarding the area, after which the bodies of brothers Omar and Rodrigo Placillo were found along with those of three of the policemen. In El Espinal, the official report added, a shootout took place under confusing circumstances, resulting in the death of the youth Guillermo Correa Patino. The son of a rich landowner, identified as Alonso Santofimio, has been accused of committing this murder.

Finally, in Armero, policemen killed Gilberto Garcia Gil as he was receiving payment of a ransom for the release of Nilson Palomino, a minor who was kidnapped on 20 April in Bogota, and whose fate is still unknown.

BRIEFS

MILITARY BRIGADE INSTALLED -- Puerto Berrio -- The 14th Brigade, which will be under General Enrique Garcia Echevers' command, was installed in Puerto Berrio on 19 May, with President Belisario Betancur and the members of the military high command in attendance. [Summary] [Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 May 83 PA]

BELAUNDE ON TROOP WITHDRAWAL FROM AYACUCHO

PA240405 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 May 83

[Text] Peruvian President Fernando Belaunde Terry has reported that plans that envisage the eventual withdrawal of the armed forces from strife-torn Ayacucho Department are being studied.

The armed forces have maintained political and military control over the Ayacucho region for more than 6 months. This region was declared under a state of emergency because of the activities of the armed group Shining Path in the area.

Belaunde Terry said that the soldiers there will be replaced by a modern and flexible police force that will confront Shining Path actions.

HAVANA CITES SCHWALB DENIAL ON PRISONERS

PA220415 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 May 83

[Text] Peruvian Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Fernando Schwalb has denied in Lima that there are more than 400 political prisoners in that country. Regarding this, he said that these prisoners are accused of participating in attacks and armed actions.

At a news conference held after the weekly cabinet meeting Schwalb stressed that nobody is persecuted in Peru because of his ideas.

Meanwhile, in Arequipa, police accused Rene Hert, an FRG citizen, of participating in armed actions as a member of Shining Path.

It was also learned that approximately 10 people were killed and more than 20 wounded during a surprise night attack carried out by Shining Path members against Ayacucho. The attack, which was aimed at the police garrison, the market, and public offices, began after part of the electrical network that supplies energy to the city was blown up with dynamite.

DEPUTY SUSPENDED FOR ALLEGED DRUG TRAFFICKING

PY241800 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 13 May 83 p 1

[Excerpt] -- The Senate decided unanimously last night to suspend Deputy Huanuco Reynaldo Rivera Romero (AP) [Popular Action] to allow the Judicial Branch to conduct an investigation and decide whether he is criminally liable for alleged involvement in drug trafficking.

According to the Senate's resolution based on a proposal submitted to the attorney general's office, Rivera Romero was to be formally charged before the Supreme Court.

BRIEFS

NEW ATTORNEY GENERAL -- Miguel Cavero Egusquiza has been installed as the new attorney general of the nation. [summary] [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 13 May 83 p 1 PY]

PAREDES CANDIDACY 'WORKING GROUP' REPORTED

PA242112 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 23 May 83 p 10A

[By Wilfr Jimenez]

[Text] After a number of meetings between representatives of various political and business sectors of the country, a "working group" has been created to promote the candidacy of General Ruben Dario Paredes in the upcoming elections, according to information supplied to LA PRENSA by a reliable source.

The group, comprised of friends of the military leader, would submit "a draft" for a "great national accord" to support him in the presidential campaign, following "the line cast" recently by the old politician diogenes De la Rosa. "It would be the greatest national political accord reached since the times of Remon," the source noted.

Paredes himself has already reportedly obtained the support of his comrades in arms, the source added, when the General Staff decided to publicly support its commander should he obtain "sufficient civilian support," mainly among the business and civic groups of the country, besides the majority -- 70 percent -- of the political groups.

In order to achieve such support, the "working group" would offer as a "political guarantee" Paredes' promise to "continue the nation's democratization, to implement the total return of the National Guard to its barracks, and to respect opposition activities," including press publications and radio newscasts.

According to our source, there would be a "specific" guarantee that attacks on or damage to press installations -- such as those suffered by LA PRENSA -- will not be repeated, although official responsibility was never accepted for "what happened in the past," with insistence instead on the theory of "self-sabotage."

One of the points of the "draft" prepared by the group suggested launching Paredes' candidacy in a massive event on the coming anniversary of the "process" next 11 11 October, when in a great rally the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party], PALA [Agrarian Labor Party] (communist), and other important "civic" and "political" figures who are dissidents of the Liberal Party and the PDC [Christian Democratic Party] "would bring Paredes out of his home" to propose his candidacy as "national" candidate for the 1984 presidential elections.

Representatives of the above-mentioned opposition parties, however, when approached by LA PRENSA, denied their support for the military candidate, although one of them left the door open to the possibility of participating in a "national accord."

"We are opposed to continuity," said "Willy" Cochez, PDC first vice president. "Therefore we cannot think of any accord based on an officialist candidacy, either military or civilian."

He affirmed that his party has had "no contact" with the "working group," and denied that the presence in Washington of PDC members had anything to do with a supposed interview with Paredes, who was also supposedly in that city by a "mere coincidence."

MOLIRENA's representative, Guillermo Guijano, emphatically denied the existence of "any type of conversation, least of all an accord on Paredes' candidacy, because there cannot be any alliance with those who have done so much harm to the country," and he added that in the next few hours the party would release a manifesto "reaffirming its opposition to the current government."

As to the "rebel" Liberal group, although it denied any rapprochement with Paredes, it did recognize the possibility of answering the call for a "national accord." Dr Roderick Esquivel, who heads the group opposed to legislator Arnulfo Escalona's party leadership, said that "the Liberals have left the door open to dialogue, not so much to talk about candidacies, but to discuss any issue that may benefit the country." He was emphatic, however, in pointing out that "I have not talked with Paredes about that or anything else."

Our source said that "to win the support of Dr Arnulfo Arias, his wife, Mireya Moscoso de Arias, would be offered the second vice presidency, which would also soften up other opposition groups." The other vice presidency would be "recommended" by the businessmen, and they could choose "Fito" Altamirano Duque, who has the support of a large "anti-communist" sector linked to Paredes.

Apparently Paredes tried to meet with Arnulfo in Boquete to make the offer, but he was not able to find the "privacy" needed to do so since he was greeted during a luncheon offered by a large number of his supporters.

LA PRENSA was unable to contact any representative of Arnulfo Arias to verify that story.

In the meantime, the "promoting group" continues preparations to launch Paredes' nomination, placing newsman Mario Velasquez as head of the campaign. He has been "taken out of his comfortable consulate in London to take over the entire publicity problem," for which he has been allotted a salary of over 200,000 balboas annually and full powers to "design the campaign and appoint the personnel to carry it out," with a budget, according to our source, of approximately 12 million balboas.

Velasquez' first move was to buy Channel Two, discarding the plans to build a Channel Five at the PROTESA (Juan Carlos Tapia) studios, which would have cost 500,000 balboas, or at Audio Video Ducre, which would have cost a smaller sum. The "takeover" of Channel Two was facilitated when part of the group linked to President de la Espriella failed to complete payment of a large pending note. That group had closed the deal with "Lindy" Paredes, the last member of the original proprietors of the television station, the family of former President Roberto F. Chiari.

The government-controlled press will also undergo considerable changes, including the reorganization of ERSa [Editora Renovacion, Inc] with "elements recommended by Velasquez," except MATUTINO, which will continue under the "direct control" of the National Guard's chief of staff.

This meant the discarding, for the time being, of the return of the papers to the Arias Guardia family, and the "cooling off" of a possible donation by the German Social Democratic Party to the PRD of modern electronic printing equipment for the publication of a new paper, different from the "current image" of the official press.

Besides the appointment of Boris Moreno -- Velasquez' "righthand man" -- at CRITICA, there was mention of making newsman Guillermo Rodolfo Valdes director of LA REPUBLICA, within the new journalistic structure to support Paredes.

A preview of such support seemed to be the publication of opinions supporting Paredes by "important spokesmen" of private enterprises such as Dulcidio Gonzalez of CONEP [National Council of Private Enterprise], Vicente Pascual of SIP [Trade Union of Panamanian Industrialists], and Kaiser Bazan of the Chamber of Commerce.

Finally, a great journalistic display is being prepared concerning "Paredes' success with the gringos," when he returns from his trip to Washington. According to the source, the group considers this as a "vital point" in Paredes' "democratic image," which was "seriously affected" by the incident with Ambassador Briggs. The credit for the "settlement with the gringos" was attributed to Ambassador Boyd and some of the "De la Espriella men in the Canal Commission."

The source concluded that it is possible that Paredes "may obtain" some U.S. promises to "improve" the effectiveness of the canal treaties through a position that is nationalistic but open "to dialogue" in the "old Torrijos" style.

Some political observers consulted by LA PRENSA think the political sense is showing "clear signals" that Panama would again have another "military candidacy, which, like that of Remon, would provoke unpredictable events."

SOCIALIST PARTY PROPOSES UNITY OF LEFT

PA191916 Panama City YA in Spanish 16 May 83 pp 12, 16

[By Cristobal Sarmiento]

[Text] The Socialist Workers Party (PST) has asked for immediate elections, a break by the People's Party [PdP] with General Paredes, and a coalition of Panamanian leftwing forces.

Yesterday, upon announcing to the press that the party had reached the minimum of 30,000 followers required by Law No 81, PST spokesmen stressed that the PdP and the Revolutionary Workers Party (PST) [as published] should join the PST and nominate workers and poor peasants as candidates for the 1984 elections.

Jose Cambra said that the party wants elections to be held as soon as possible in order to be in a position to struggle against the powerful parties. He also demanded the right to use the mass media, which is dominated by well-heeled parties.

Herasto Reyes said that it has taken the PST 5 years to become registered, but that "there is not a single false signature or any drunkard's signature on its books. They are all legitimate signatures."

The PST began its registration efforts in 1979 and had reached 30,256 signatures, "with much effort and sweat," by Sunday. Reyes said he and his colleagues expect to collect 32,000 signatures and will therefore continue registering members until the first week of June. The registration period expires on 30 June.

The news conference, which was held at this city's Hotel Centroamericano, was attended by Electoral Tribunal President Cesar Quintero as a special guest. Quintero commended the PST leaders for their perseverance and asserted that thus far there have been no complaints against the PST's registration books. Quintero said many parties may exist in a democratic system, but they must have an ideology and strong convictions.

PST spokesmen said that they have been holding talks with the PdP and the PST [as published] regarding a possible union of leftwing parties for the 1984 elections.

They stressed that the PdP is separating itself [se separa] from General Paredes and the parties supporting the government and the process, and is entertaining their proposal on unity of the working class.

The PST will nominate candidates for president, legislators, mayors, and Corregimiento representatives. These will be classist candidates "because the struggle for a workers' government in a socialist Panama will not remain shelved until the year 2000."

As firm evidence that the PST is interested in achieving unity among the leftwing sectors in Panama, Cambra said that his party is willing to cooperate, with the help of its rank-and-file, in the registration of the PRT, which already has over 26,000 registered followers.

OPPOSITION NEWSMAN SEES PAREDES AS 'DEMAGOGUE'

PA220249 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 21 May 83 p 8A

[By Guillermo A. Cochez Jr.: "Ruben Dario Paredes, Demagogue"]

[Excerpt] The man of the recommendations and suggestions now wants to be called the man of the rosary. The lack of originality of the Panamanian strongman causes him to publicly imitate Fidel Castro, carrying showy religious objects, as did the Cuban dictator on coming down from the Sierra Maestra when he tried to demonstrate to the world his moving Christian faith, carrying rosaries, scapularies and many crucifixes. The lack of imagination of the modest military leader makes him repeat phrases such as the one that his detractors would fit in a Volkswagen with room to spare. This is a phrase used 25 years ago by the infamous Adolfo Ahumada in the era of the 60's when the Christian Democrats battled it out with the communists in the university.

General Paredes' speech at the inauguration of the bridge in Chirique that fell due to the negligence of the Public Works Ministry was aired 47 times by Radio Libertad and who knows how many more times by the various television channels. The ever-present flatterers in the official newspapers have done nothing but publish time and again the unoriginal phrases and statements of the military officer, converted as if by a stroke of magic into a national and international statesman.

In addition to the unconstitutional aspect of the content of his speech, making illegal use of his post as commander in chief of the National Guard to talk about his presidential candidacy, Mr Paredes again showed a lack of respect for Mr de la Espriella with his irreverent "recommendations" about various topics of national life. If what he seeks with these public appearances is to ridicule the president of the republic, we would all have to agree that the general manages, as time goes by, to bring ever-more ridicule on the president, who is mocked by those who see the things he is obliged to state after the "as of nows" of the general.

A cold and somber analysis of the dialectic contributions of Mr Paredes to Panamanian politics brings us to the conclusion that in a short time he has managed to master a special art of "politicians" [with a small "p"] known since the time of ancient Greece as demagoguery.

We affirm that General Paredes has become a perfect demagogue. It suffices to know what the term "demagogue" means to reach the inevitable conclusion that his last speech, like his 16 December speech, known as the "little can" speech, and his famous letter to Ambassador Briggs, is a genuine piece of demagogic oratory.

COLUMNIST CRITICIZES GUARD LINKS TO U.S. ARMY

PA240418 Panama City DIALOGO SOCIAL in Spanish May 83 p 8

[From the "Panamanian Situation" column]

[Text] Because it is so stated in the treaties, the Panamanian National Guard and the U.S. Army coordinate their military actions for the defense of the canal through a joint commission. This drags the Panamanian armed corps into intensive training by the United States and into holding maneuvers such as "Kindle Liberty 83" (11-17 February), in which 10,000 U.S. and 800 Panamanian soldiers participated, against a supposed guerrilla invasion from Central America. This involves Panama in U.S. military strategy.

The United States plays its cards in Panama according to this strategy, and Panama is powerless to prevent it. In this we can see clearly the State Department's insistence on keeping U.S. Ambassador Everett Briggs in Panama, although General Paredes accused him of intervention and espionage in a letter dated 19 February. The United States has just removed one of Paredes' great friends, Lieutenant General Wallace Nutting, as chief of the Southern Command and has replaced him with General Paul Gorman, who was assistant to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington (a high-ranking post). He coordinated U.S. mediation in Lebanon. Both cards, Briggs and Gorman, support the aggressive U.S. escalation in the region.

BRIEFS

SOUTH KOREAN DONATION -- The South Korea Government has donated b/200,000 in agricultural equipment to the Panama Government, "as a further demonstration of the close friendship and mutual cooperation existing between both countries." The formal documents were signed last Thursday at the Ministry of Agriculture and Cattle Development (MIDA), by South Korean Ambassador Han Sang-kuk and Minister of Agriculture and Cattle Development Frank Omar Perez. Witnessing the ceremony were several embassy aides, Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Maria Cabrera, and Deputy Agriculture Minister Jorge Canto. [Excerpts]
[Panama City STAR AND HERALD in English 24 May 83 pp A-1, A-6 PA]

COSTA RICAGOVERNMENT TAKES STEPS TO LIMIT NICARAGUAN DEBT

PA240444 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 24 May 83

[Text] The government will not permit the Nicaraguan debt to increase. Nicaragua now owes Costa Rica \$95.5 million for the sale of electric power, said Economy Minister Marco Antonio Lopez Aguero. He said that the Economic Council met this morning and decided not to permit the Nicaraguan debt to increase.

He added that no more electric power will be sold to that country unless it is strictly for cash. He said that high-ranking Nicaraguan economic officials, including the president of the Central Bank, are coming to Costa Rica to negotiate the payment of the large debt. It was implied that Costa Rica will continue to supply electric power to Nicaragua if a satisfactory solution can be found to the debt.

EL SALVADORJOINT FMLN-FDR COMMUNIQUE ON SAN JOSE TRIALS

PA242002 (Clandestine) Radio Guazapa in Spanish to El Salvador 0130 GMT 24 May 83

[FMLN-FDR communique "to the peoples of the world," issued in San Salvador in May 1983 -- read by announcer]

[Text] In view of the sentencing of four members and associates of the FMLN in Costa Rica, we denounce that after a 4-day trial where the detainees were accused of international crimes against human rights, Jose Sbezzi Maldonado, Argentine, was sentenced to 12 years in prison; Nicaraguan Juan Carlos Murillo Guerrero to 10 years; Salvadoran Miguel Angel Moreno Garcia to 2 years; and Ecuadorean (Ivan Manuel Ibarra Flores) to 10 years.

During the trial, the detainees and their defense counsels furnished overwhelming evidence of the tortures inflicted on them during the 19 days they spent in the underground dungeons of the Judicial Investigation Organization, OIJ.

The torturers, high-ranking OIJ officials, tried to wrest statements from the detainees by continually threatening to murder them or turn them over to the Salvadoran military. The detainees, members and associates of the FMLN and the FDR, were in Costa Rica carrying out support tasks for the heroic struggle that the Salvadoran people are waging against the fascist dictatorship, which holds power only due to the support of the U.S. Government.

We state that with this decision, Costa Rican justice has condemned four antifascists and has become an accomplice of the dictatorial Salvadoran regime which day by day is being denounced and isolated by all the world's democratic and progressive forces. Because of this, we urge the world's democratic governments, the humanitarian organizations that struggle for the respect of human rights, the political parties, the workers' unions, the student and professional associations, the peasants, artists and intellectuals, and all men and women who support the struggle of the Salvadoran people, to ask Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge and the Costa Rican Council of the Government that the four sentenced companeros be pardoned and immediately released. [Issued] San Salvador, May 1983. United to fight until the final victory. Revolution or death. We will win!

RADIO VENCEREMOS REPORTS ON FMLN ACTIVITIES

Government Amnesty Offer Denounced

PA240421 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 22 May 83

[Text] We are winning the war and we could not care less about any amnesty. [Msgr] Freddy Delgado's amnesty commission should not make a fool of itself by begging us to lay aside our weapons, because it is the dictatorship's troops who are surrendering and laying aside their weapons in every clash with our revolutionary forces.

You have the gall to ask us to lay aside our weapons and surrender, when you not achieved a single victory over our forces. You want to achieve with a propaganda effort what you have not been able to achieve on the battlefield.

Keep your bulky bundle of amnesty papers because there is nothing more repugnant to the people than the reprieve from the genocides.

U.S. AID Funds Discussed

PA241323 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 21 May 83

[Text] Ronald Reagan's government seems to be set on using every means available to increase the war in our country.

Immediately after the U.S. Congress cut the multimillion-dollar military aid program for the dictatorship in half, Reagan's advisers began seeking ways to supply, through other means, that military aid so desperately requested by the Salvadoran Army. And so the brilliant idea was born: Use the AID, an international organization, to get the tens of millions to the dictatorship. In this way, and through the hands of Ambassador Deane Hinton, in less than a week a total of \$38 million was received from the AID in three different deliveries. By doing this, Reagan is evading Congressional action to his plan to give millions of dollars to El Salvador and Central America. They used the AID because it is an organization funded by U.S. monopolies that are politically dominated by the U.S. Government.

We have not revealed these maneuvers because we are intimidated by the completion of Reagan's multimillion-dollar warmongering plan for our homeland. We revealed the maneuvers so that the imperialist hawks will know that we have their every step well checked. We have also revealed the plan so that our people can see Reagan's dirty intentions very clearly. He wants to sink us in a greater bloodbath financed by those green U.S. dollars, as green as the berets used by the advisers and as green as Reagan's face.

Anyway, the United States and the dictatorship are the ones being harmed by pretending and dreaming with the \$38 million supplied by the AID. Of the \$38 million they will have nothing left. We have already warned them: We are going to sabotage the infrastructure of the oppressors economy until Reagan's millions have turned to dust. With hard and organized sabotage we are going to stop the dictatorship from investing the economic aid in the genocidal war. They won't have a single cent left of the \$38 million sent by Reagan and AID. They will come out losing. We have already said it: There will be a homeland for all or for none.

Refuge Commission Criticized

PA241534 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 22 May 83

[Excerpt] Some half million Salvadorans were evicted by repression and immediately became a political and economic problem for the U.S. advisers who had already experienced Vietnam. Every evicted Salvadoran was a potential enemy of the regime. According to the U.S. advisers, the thousands of evicted people in the departmental capitals represented a time bomb that would sooner or later explode in the faces of the oppressors.

The counterinsurgency plans prepared by the U.S. advisers, to be carried out by Napoleon Duarte, included creation of a National Commission for Aid to Displaced Persons, Conade. The Conade mission imposed by U.S. advisers was to carry out hypocritical and cynical paternalistic campaigns to aid the displaced people, in an attempt to lessen the displeasure among the victims of repression.

In other words, the Atlacatl Battalion and genocidal corps beat the people with cudgels and the Conade came with its humanitarian mask to exert control and vigilance among the survivors of this repression. Conade is trying to erase from the displaced people's minds the hate for those who annihilated their relatives, set fire to their homes, and caused them so much suffering, in exchange for a can of lard and 2 pounds of sugar.

The dictatorship's cynicism is expressed by the way in which Conade has been organized, because it is comprised by those very people who carry out this repression: Defense Minister Vides Casanova, Interior Minister Lopez Cermeno and -- of course, because he could not be left out -- landowner and Agriculture Minister Miguel Muyshondt, who also represents the National Republican Alliance, Arena, and the death squads.

According to the accusations, a good part of the millions of dollars sent by foreign organizations has ended up in these men's pockets. This group of killers, who are responsible for the genocide of more than 40,000 Salvadorans, could not act differently. In Conade, these killers have found a humanitarian mask for the monster.

BRIEFS

NEW AMBASSADOR TO OAS -- Oscar Castro Araujo has been appointed Salvadoran Ambassador to the OAS, replacing Ernesto Arrieta Peralta, who has been transferred to Colombia. Castro Araujo will be sworn in next week. [Excerpt] [San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 20 May 83 pp 3, 27 PA]

COFFEE PRODUCERS' DEBT -- Salvadoran coffee producers announced today that they owe \$176.4 million to the National Banking System and to the National Coffee Institute as a result of credit granted for the 1982-83 harvest. The producers said that it will be difficult for them to pay their debt, which continues to grow, if the product continues to be sold at "starvation" prices. [Excerpt] [Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0148 GMT 20 May 83 PA]

GUATEMALAORPA OVERRIDES STATION TO AIR 10-MINUTE MESSAGE

PA241918 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1755 GMT 24 May 83

[Text] Guatemala City, 24 May (ACAN-EFE) -- The Guatemalan police reported today that the Guatemalan guerrilla group, Armed People's Revolutionary Organization, ORPA, had overridden a radio station frequency for the second time this month.

The police explained that the guerrilla organization overrode the frequency of Super Radio last Sunday in order to broadcast an antigovernment message. The message was read by a woman and lasted 10 minutes.

The first interference occurred on 19 May when ORPA, in clandestine broadcasts through Radio Continental and Radio Ceniroadmericana, claimed to have carried out an attack against a military convoy.

According to ORPA, the organization killed or wounded 30 soldiers. Official sources maintained that only six soldiers had been wounded.

HONDURASFOREIGN SECRETARY RETURNS FROM FAR EAST TRIP

PA241430 Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish 0100 GMT 24 May 83

[Report by Regina Osorio]

[Text] Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica returned yesterday from the Republic of China and Japan where he had been a guest of the governments of those two countries. Paz met with chiefs of state, foreign ministers, and the news media to report on the true Honduran situation, according to what the foreign secretary told this television station:

[Begin Paz recording] I had lengthy meetings with the chiefs of state of those two countries, their prime ministers, and foreign ministers. I also met with the news media.

We signed joint communiques. With the Republic of China, we signed an agreement to be added to an existing technical and economic cooperation treaty between the two countries. [end recording]

The foreign secretary stated that the prime minister made statements in support of Honduras and that these statements were reported internationally.

[Begin Paz recording] Sure, the two countries are providing important economic and technological cooperation. Japan, especially, has increased such cooperation.

The Japanese prime minister has made specific statements backing the democratic process of President Suazo Cordova and the pacification process in the Central American area, a process that has in the peaceful disposition of the democratic government of Honduras one of its keystones. These statements were disseminated by the international news media. [end recording]

PAZ BARNICA ON UN RESOLUTION, NATIONAL ISSUES

PA241648 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 24 May 83

[Reporter Gustavo Rodriguez interview with Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica, no date or place given -- recorded]

[Text] [Rodriguez] Dr Paz Barnica, are the relations between Honduras and Nicaragua very tense?

[Paz Barnica] I consider the relations between Honduras and Nicaragua are logically very tense because of the current problems caused by the Nicaraguan Government's aggressive attitude and constant provocations. Now that I am rejoining the Foreign Secretariat, I have already informed the president of the republic and exchanged views with the secretary of the presidency. We shall continue working for peace because it is the basic postulate of the Honduran foreign policy.

[Rodriguez] What is your opinion on the recent UN resolution?

[Paz Barnica] In the opinion of the Honduran Government and the Honduran Foreign Secretariat, that resolution is a triumph for Honduras for various reasons. First, it recognizes the regional nature of the problem because it supports the Contadora Group initiative. That in itself is a triumph. Furthermore, Honduras is not mentioned; it is neither condemned nor charged with anything, which is also a triumph. While the resolution recognizes that there is an internal problem in Nicaragua, there is no mention of any aggression. This is more noteworthy because the resolution itself refers to the serious problem affecting Nicaragua inside its territory, which gives the problem an internal nature.

The resolution also recognizes the regional character of Central America, which is precisely a Honduran initiative. It backs the Contadora Group's organizing a meeting of the five Central American countries, as proposed by the democratic and constitutional government of President Suazo Cordova.

[Rodriguez] What do you think of the National Party's recent public statement?

[Paz Barnica] I consider that an important political party. In fact, the second most important political force in the country has the right to criticize any government. Such criticism, however, should be positive and constructive, because criticism is necessary in any democratic system.

[Rodriguez] What can you tell us about the latest diplomatic appointments: Colonel Armando Velasquez Serrato's appointment an ambassador to Italy and Major Jose Enrique Chinchilla's as military attache in the Republic of Panama?

[Paz Barnica] I am pleased that the president of the republic, taking into account the sentiment of the Honduran people and in common agreement with Armed Forces chief General Alvarez Martinez, revoked the appointment of Maj Chinchilla.

[Rodriguez] And about the appointment of Col Armando Velasquez?

[Paz Barnica] With few exceptions, the appointment of an ambassador is eminently political; it responds to political interests. The appointment of Col Armando Velasquez should be considered in that context and perspective.

[Rodríguez] Is this appointment political in nature?

[Paz Barnica] I feel the appointment responds to a specific political situation, because the appointment of an ambassador is the result of political interests and interpretations. Furthermore, as chief of the nation's foreign policy, the president is authorized to make such an appointment. We trust that in the future and in compliance with the constitutional mandates, Col Armando Velasquez Serrato will do his duty.

GOVERNMENT NEWS TO BE DISSEMINATED BY ASIN

PA241533 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 23 May 83 p 64

[Text] Tegucigalpa -- Our country has formally become a member of the National Information Systems Activity [ASIN]. As of now, its regular official news service will circulate throughout the continent, according to Ambassador Amilcar Santamaria, director of the national government's International Press Office.

This official went recently to Caracas, Venezuela. There he reached an agreement with ASIN president Alejandro Alfonso who is the commissioner of the Information Ministry in charge of international information. The agreement will allow Honduras to place important news in the ASIN cable network on a daily basis. This news will be published in the hemisphere's government news media.

The news will also be published in newspapers and broadcast on radio and television stations that receive INTERPRESS news services. INTERPRESS relays ASIN news reports.

This is one of the achievements of the recent visit by a high-level Honduran Government officials to Venezuela. Mr Santamaria told the local news media about the true Honduran and Central American situation. The information he provided aroused the interest and sympathy of the Venezuelan people.

NICARAGUA

GOVERNMENT PROTESTS NEW ATTACKS FROM HONDURAS

PA240428 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0255 GMT 24 May 83

[Text] Managua, 23 May (ACAN-EFE) -- Some 530 anti-Sandinists have again invaded Nicaragua and have been repelled by the Sandinist People's Army (EPS), which is trying to oust them from national territory after 3 days of fighting, government sources confirmed today. According to the Managua Foreign Ministry, some 300 invaders "from their bases in Honduran territory" penetrated Nicaragua, crossing Terrerías in the Department of Nueva Segovia on the Honduran border. The attackers were intercepted 21 May, and fierce fighting broke out some 13 km from the border with Honduras.

Another 60 anti-Sandinists also entered Nicaragua, crossing the sectors of El Carbon and El Portillo, but their advance was checked according to official sources. These 60 men are currently fighting 1,500 meters from the borderline, while another anti-Sandinist detachment estimated at 60 is fighting some 500 meters from the borderline, after having entered the country through the sector of El Porvenir near the city of Jalapa, 315 km north of Managua.

Reports add that on Sunday another force estimated at 100 former Somozists entered national territory through the sectors of El Escambray and La Providencia.

The clashes between the anti-Sandinists and the Sandinists Army continued today, Monday, some 1500 meters from the border with Honduras.

The Managua Foreign Ministry sent a strong and formal protest to the Honduran Government for these attacks from Honduran territory against Nicaraguan positions. In the note Nicaragua insisted in appealing to the Honduran Government "to abandon its rash and dangerous attitude, which increases the possibility of an open conflict between our countries."

Other sources reported that fighting was underway today, Monday, in Casas Viejas, La Cantina, Teotecacinte, and El Limon villages near Jalapa. It was reported that the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction was in Jalapa last weekend near the site of the armed confrontations between the "task forces" of the anti-Sandinist Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) and the Sandinist Army.

Last Sunday there was an anti-Sandinist ambush against a caravan of vehicles in which 20 journalists of various nationalities were traveling near Jalapa. Thirteen dead, six wounded and two vehicles damages was the result of the surprise attack. The journalists were unharmed.

Meanwhile, Commander William Ramirez, military officer responsible for the Atlantic coast, told the official agencia NUEVA NICARAGUA (ANN) that during fighting on that coast between 13 and 17 May the Army had inflicted a total of 116 casualties on the "counterrevolutionaries."

In the armed clashes in the region of northern Zelaya, the military officer added, the Nicaraguan Army has sustained 10 dead and wounded. Commander Ramirez added the FDN detachments estimated at 600 men had entered the country through the sectors of Kun, Atchemco, Bilwaskarma and Waspan. The anti-Sandinists also attacked the "La Tronquera" industrial plant which processes pine logs to produce raw materials for paint and turpentine.

Commander Ramirez also said that the anti-Sandinists, in a desperate action, blew up the old dock of Puerto Cabezas, the principal port of the Atlantic Coast. Finally, Ramirez said that some 2,000 anti-Sandinists are again regrouping in Honduran territory with the aim of launching a new attack on Nicaraguan positions before the rains set in this month.

Protest Note by D'Escoto

PA242013 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 May 83

[Protest note signed by Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel E'Escoto, sent to Honduras Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica; issued in Managua on 23 May 1983 -- read by announcer]

[Text] Mr Minister: This is to inform Your Excellency of the following facts: On 21 May, some 300 counterrevolutionaries, from their bases in Honduran territory, penetrated Nicaraguan territory through the sector of Terrerías in Nueva Segovia Department. They were intercepted by our troops and since that day the invaders are being fought some 13 km from the border.

On the same day, 21 May, another counterrevolutionary unit made up of some 60 Somozists penetrated our territory also from Honduran territory, through the sectors of El Cardon and El Portillo, and was checked in its advance by our Armed Forces. Clashes still continue 1.5 km from the border line.

Also on 21 May, another Somozist unit made up of some 70 men penetrated Nicaraguan territory from Honduras through the El Porvenir sector and was intercepted by Nicaraguan troops. Clashes are still going on 500 meters from the border.

Yesterday, 22 May, a force of 100 Somozist mercenaries from Honduras penetrated the national territory through the sectors of Escambray and La Providencia and were stopped by our troops. Fighting still continues 1.5 and 2.5 km from the border.

On presenting to the Honduran Government my government's vigorous and formal protest of these attacks, we made a new appeal for the sorely needed bilateral dialogue between our countries in order to reduce tension in the area and to reestablish peace along the Nicaragua-Honduras border.

In the same manner, Nicaragua reiterates its already insistent appeals to the Honduran Government to abandon its ill-considered and dangerous position, which makes an open conflict between our two countries an ever-increasing possibility. I take the opportunity to reiterate to Your Excellency my highest consideration. [Signed] Miguel D'Escoto Brockman, foreign minister of free Nicaragua.

EPS OFFICER REPORTS FIGHTING IN JALAPA REGION

PA240445 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 24 May 83

[Text] Somozist counterrevolutionaries have been repelled by EPS [Sandinist People's Army] and Interior Ministry troops in five places in Jalapa. As part of the aggressive escalation of U.S. imperialism against our country, fighting is underway in El Carbon, La Providencia, El Porvenir, Teotecacinte and Escambray in the Jalapa region.

Captain Rodrigo Gonzalez, commander of the troops in that sector, has told local and foreign newsmen that the EPS is fighting against approximately 1,000 counterrevolutionaries spread throughout these five places. The Somozist guardsmen are retreating to Honduras after suffering dozens of casualties.

Havana Reports on Clashes

PA242142 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 May 83

[Text] The Sandinist People's Army (EPS) is fighting 1,200 former Somozist guards in 19 places close to Jalapa, in Nueva Segovia Department. The armed clashes have been occurring for the past 4 days and are particularly intense in the area of El Cardon, only 3 km from Jalapa. The invaders have suffered more than 90 casualties in the actions, while 21 Sandinist fighters have been killed or wounded.

Captain Rodrigo Gonzalez, military chief of the Jalapa sector, warned that the attacks by the counterrevolutionary groups might increase in the next few days. He said that reservists, militiamen and forces from the Interior Ministry are also fighting these enemies.

Another group of more than 1,000 counterrevolutionaries is reportedly getting ready to invade Nicaragua through the northern sector of Zelaya Department on the Atlantic coast. According to other reports, 11 anti-Sandinists died when EPS elements repelled an attack by former Somozist guards on a caravan in which Nicaraguan and foreign newsmen were traveling. The action occurred in Nueva Segovia Department.

COMMANDER BORGE INTERVIEWED BY PERUVIAN MAGAZINE

PA241720 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0315 GMT 24 May 83

[Text] Lima, 23 May (EFE) -- Eden Pastora (Commander Cero) wanted to be president of Nicaragua or the Sandinist leader after Anastasio Somoza's overthrow, according to Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge, whose statement was published here today by the weekly magazine CARETAS. Borge, a member of the Nicaraguan junta, said Pastora is prone to fantasies. Borge denied that Fidel Castro ever told Commander Cero: "You are either a saint or a fool. You should have taken power."

Borge said that the Nicaraguan Sandinist government plans to hold elections in 1985. Whichever of the 10 existing parties in Nicaragua that gets the most votes will assume power, he said. He added, however, that, "if we analyze our country's history and use our commonsense, we can see that this is really a theoretical possibility."

Regarding a Sandinist leader's statement that "power is not up for grabs," Borge said that those words mean "that the people have become masters of their own destiny, and this will never change." Borge admitted that, "the Cubans have given some cooperation to the Nicaraguan armed forces. However, it has been numerically insignificant."

He said that the Interior Ministry is struggling against bureaucracy, which "in my opinion is a greater evil than the counterrevolution. We have not been able to defeat bureaucracy. It was easier to defeat Somoza, and it will be easier to defeat the counterrevolution and imperialism."

Referring to relations between the Sandinist Government and the Nicaraguan church, he said that Archbishop Msgr Miguel Obando, "has become the top political leader of the Nicaraguan revolution's enemies." Commander Borge said that the archbishop "not only uses the pulpit but also his international connections for the benefit of his political program. His specific links with the U.S. Government and the economic aid he gets are not used to further religious beliefs throughout the country."

DANIEL ORTEGA SPEAKS ON 'FACE THE PEOPLE'

PA240440 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 24 May 83

[Text] Members of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction toured the streets of Jalapa with the people yesterday, and then held a "Face the People" program.

Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, addressed the people of Jalapa, despite the fact that they could hear the rumble of mortar fire from the bloody fighting between Somozist counterrevolutionaries and Sandinist Peoples Army troops.

Here is an excerpt of Commander Ortega Saavedra's speech on the "Face the People" program held in Jalapa yesterday: [Begin Ortega recording] We have just visited companeros soldiers of our army, reservists and troops of the revolution, most of whom were wounded this morning and last night in fighting in various parts of this Jalapa region.

They are the people's heroic combatants. This Jalapa region has been turning itself into a symbol of the Nicaraguan people's resistance against U.S. aggression and intervention, because we all know that the United States has armed these Somozist guardsmen.

I was telling the companeros soldiers this morning that Mr Reagan, through the CIA, has been sending weapons to the Somozist guardsmen. I added that now somebody who is worse than the Somozist guardsmen -- the traitor Eden Pastora -- publicly is complaining in the Costa Rican newspapers and radio stations because he says that Mr Reagan has given more rifles to the Somozist guardsmen than to him. He is saying that he only got 1,500 while the Somozist guardsmen received 20,000. He is saying that he needs more rifles because he can't do much against the Sandinist people with 1,500 rifles.

Therefore, I was saying that these Somozist guardsmen and the traitor Pastora have something in common; their hatred for the Nicaraguan people. They have a common desire; to wage war against the Nicaraguan people. They are involved in a common situation; they are receiving weapons from the U.S. Government. However, they also have a common future; they will be defeated by the Nicaraguan people. Just as you are defeating the Somozist guardsmen here in Nueva Segovia, you are also defeating the traitor Pastora in the San Juan River area.

We will defeat them even if President Reagan gives 20,000 more rifles to the traitor Pastora and 20,000 more rifles to the Somozist guardsmen. They will be defeated because they are confronting the Nicaraguan people. There is no force capable of defeating the people.

A companero soldier said today: our missiles are our willingness to fight. It is true. That is the most powerful missile that the Nicaraguan people can have. The most powerful weapon we have in Nicaragua is our willingness to fight, and with this disposition, we are ready to face President Reagan's policy expressed through the Somozist guardsmen as long as necessary. It is not up to us to put an end to this war. Who does it depend on? It depends on President Reagan and the people who give him advice. I would say they are not too smart. The people who give President Reagan advice are dumb and stupid. It is up to them whether this war lasts a few more months or a few more years.

One thing they must be very clear on is that they have no chance of winning. They might wound some and kill some. It hurts to lose them because it is a great sacrifice we are imposing on our people.

We just visited some wounded companeros. They were youths of 15, 16 and 18 years. They could very well be studying. They were studying, but they had to be mobilized to defend the revolution. We also met peasants who could very well be producing the corn and beans we need so much, but they also had to be mobilized to defend the revolution. There were also workers who could very well be producing in the factories of Managua, Leon, Masaya and Granada, but they had to be mobilized to this area in Jalapa, in the northern Atlantic area, and to the San Juan river region. We had to mobilize the people everywhere in order to defend the revolution.

In this area we have met the people who are targets of the aggressions of the Somozist guardsmen and the United States. These are people who have to live their lives amid a war. You have organized your self-defense systems. Amid this abnormality that is the aggression, you have sought to normalize your daily lives in this town, your production even your entertainment. And this is a victory for the revolution and the people, because none of this could have been done without the people's participation. Therefore, this is the people's victory. [end recording]

ARCE BLASTS U.S. GOVERNMENT AT YOUTH EVENT

PA240453 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2018 GMT 23 May 83

[Text] Managua, 23 May (ACAN-EFE) -- Bayardo Arce, coordinator of the FSLN Political Committee, stated here today that "U.S. imperialism has no friends, is not loyal to anybody, and has lackeys." In a strong criticism of President Ronald Reagan's administration during the inauguration of a meeting of youth leaders of Central America and Mexico, Arce recalled that Reagan had increased the interest rate of the dollar to European countries, to the detriment of their economies and those of the Arab countries. [sentence as received]

He also said that the United States restricted the markets of Japanese vehicles and European steel, because it likes the other countries to be weak. He stressed that Nicaragua is ready to "assume the challenge at whatever cost," noting that "we will not kneel or bow our heads to gringo imperialism."

He indicated that the Sandinists are not warmongers but are peace-loving revolutionaries "who will never attack another country."

Asking the participants at the young meeting to contribute to prevent the "policy of intervention in Central America" from materializing, he emphasized Nicaraguan trade with all countries of the world, without following the dictates of the North Americans.

Further Arce Comments

PA241948 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2257 GMT 23 May 83

[Text] Managua, 23 May (ACAN-EFE) -- Bayardo Arce, coordinator of the FSLN Political Committee, stated today, Monday, that "Contaduro Group" efforts do not mean that "the interests of the Latin Americans are fully guaranteed."

Speaking to 46 delegates from 36 political youth organizations in Mexico, Central America, and Panama, the Sandinist leader criticized the recent meeting by the deputy foreign ministers [as received] of Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala. Referring to the meeting which took place in San Salvador, Arce called it a "black mass" by some governments of the region. (Observations on the procedures and methods of the Contadora Group were made at the San Salvador meeting.)

According to the Sandinist commander, "it would be incredible" for "the young people to fold their arms" to see what happens, "just waiting to see what mess they inherit in the future" while the threats being faced by the Central American region are discussed at regional and partial meetings as well as in the United Nations and the OAS.

The Sandinist leader said he was speaking before young people who could not open their mouths in their own countries "because if they do, they would have it closed with the butt of a firearm."

He also spoke of other young people in other countries "where those who speak up are silenced with marijuana or pop music, although we have nothing against music," he explained.

HAVANA CITES ORTEGA'S REMARKS TO RESERVISTS

PA240403 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 May 83

[Text] Nicaraguan Defense Minister Commander of the Revolution Humberto Oretga has warned that the threat of a greater aggression against his country still exists. He said that the struggle might turn more complex if imperialism achieves its goal of provoking a war between Nicaragua and Honduras.

He added that the enemies of the revolution are trying to get the Sandinist government to give up its right to arm the people, but they will continue to arm them, he stressed.

The government station La Voz de Nicaragua reported that the Sandinist Peoples Army repelled an attack by a contingent of counterrevolutionary forces that had entered Nueva Segovia Department. In heavy fighting, the Somozist bands are being sent back to Honduras where they have their main refuge, the Nicaraguan station added.

According to other reports, Sandinist combatants repelled an attack by a force made up of more than 100 counterrevolutionaries who were trying to seize La Azucena, on the border with Costa Rica.

JUNTA MEMBERS MEET WITH TROOPS IN JALAPA AREA

PA250222 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2104 GMT 24 May 83

[Dialogue held by Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, Sergio Ramirez Mercado, and Rafael Cordova Rivas, members of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, with troops of the Sandinist People's Army and the Interior Ministry at the Jalapa-La Limonera Military Base in Jalapa on 22 May 1983; all questioners unidentified -- recorded]

[Text] [Ortega Saavedra] We bring you greetings from the FSLN National Directorate and the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction.

It was physically impossible to have all the companeros, soldiers, reservists, and militiamen who are defending the homeland and the revolution in this Jalapa region present at this meeting. Therefore, you are representing your companeros.

Some of you probably come from other departments. Many of you are from this same area of Jalapa, Nueva Segovia Department, or neighboring departments.

The company we saw today is from Esteli. Nicaraguan revolutionary combatants organized in the Sandinist People's Army [EPS], the reserve battalions, the Sandinist People's Militias are present in this region defending the Nicaraguan revolution.

We feel it is very valuable to have this opportunity to talk with you because we know that the Sandinist soldiers is not a mechanical soldier or a robot but a political soldier. He is a man who thinks, who betters himself and who develops with the Sandinist People's revolution. There is a great difference in quality between a Sandinist soldier and the Somozist soldiers of the past and the soldiers of the counter-revolution of imperialism at the present time. They may create good conditions in their camps in Honduras. In some cases, they might even have better material conditions than the Sandinist soldier. They might have better uniforms and boots, and be better equipped than the Sandinist soldier or reservist.

This is easy to understand because they are receiving full support from the United States. They are receiving full support from a military and economic power in the world; the United States. There is a great difference in their lives because, despite all of this, they do not have the quality of a Sandinist combatant. They might have material resources but they don't have moral resources. They do not possess the moral, political and revolutionary strength of a Sandinist soldier. For this reason, we are defeating them. For this reason, we will continue to defeat them; and for this reason, they will be completely defeated when the time comes.

We know that this is a long struggle [words indistinct] not only here in this part of Nueva Segovia Department but also in the northern Atlantic area. There is also a struggle underway in Jinotega Department, (?near) the border. Fighting is also underway in the southern region, on the side of the San Juan River where counterrevolutionaries are attacking from Costa Rica.

The counterrevolutionaries are being found in various parts. On one side we find the Somozist guardsmen, and on the other the traitor Eden Pastora. The traitor Eden Pastora is publicly complaining in Costa Rica. He is complaining in Costa Rica. He is complaining through the media that the United States is doing something very stupid. He is saying that the United States is only giving him 1,500 rifles, while the Somozist guardsmen in Honduras are getting 20,000 rifles. [Words indistinct] we see that the traitor Pastora is receiving rifles from the United States along with the Somozists. He is still complaining [words indistinct] rifles.

We wished we had 1,500 rifles when we began fighting. We wished we had 1,500 rifles 10 years later or 15 years later. We didn't have 1,500 rifles until the final months of the revolution, when we were defeating the Somozist dictatorship. With 1,500 rifles the Somozist dictatorship couldn't have resisted us. Now we see that 1,500 rifles have been given to the guardsmen on one side and 1,500 to the traitor Pastora on the other, and yet they are incapable of defeating the revolution. They will not be able to defeat the revolution. They will not be able to defeat the revolution because this is a revolution defended by the people, the workers, the laborers and the peasants.

From your trenches in the fighting, you might talk about many topics, things and problems. You might talk about this or that and discuss it. Anytime you can, discuss with your political companeros the economic and international problems and the status of the production because, as I was saying, you are thinking soldiers. You are not blind instruments. You are instruments aware of the defense of the revolution.

The FSLN National Directorate wants a greater awareness from the people and the soldiers. It wants the soldiers to be more prepared and to study more, to the extent of their possibilities, of course. Even in the worst conditions, you must make efforts to be better trained, to study more, and to increase your cultural level.

Well, today we are meeting with you, and aside from greeting you we want to tell you that this struggle will be a very long one, as long as the United States continues supporting the genocides. But we have enough patience, courage and heart to face those criminals and defeat them. We can't say here that this will be settled in a single battle. As you can see, they enter 5 km or 50 meters -- around the area of Macarali, or through this other side that they have once again started using -- they come in a little ways, they are stopped and defeated, and they return to Honduras. Over there the wounded are treated, they get more weapons, and they start once again. This is a problem that cannot be resolved in a single battle. We were talking not long ago with relatives of companeros who were mobilized to this region, to the Atlantic and to the south. We were particularly talking with the mothers.

They were asking us to see if we could rotate the companeros a bit because they had already been away for 6 months. [Words indistinct] We were saying that the companeros have been away for 6 months. However, we explained to the mothers that we were making great efforts in the army -- this is, in regard to reserve battalions -- to form more reserve battalions as soon as possible in order to rotate them. We found a great willingness among the people of neighborhoods in Managua, Leon, Masaya and Rivas, in the urban and rural sectors, to join reserve battalions. Therefore, it has permitted this rotation. We must be prepared to face this situation for months, years or whatever time necessary. This does not mean a [words indistinct] but it is the only way to consolidate the revolution. We are continuing the fight we began more than 20 years ago against the Somoza dictatorship. We are continuing this fight now in defense of the revolution.

I was telling you that there are some problems and complaints; and aside from greeting you, talking with you, and telling you that our revolution continues to have great international support and that this international support was achieved with much sacrifice -- and at this time the international support is maintained thanks to the sacrifice being made by the people for defense and production -- we would like to listen to you. Tell us what you think of the situation, ask questions so that we may have the opportunity to speak to you.

[Question] Why are we being attacked if we have the right to defend ourselves. At the UN, Brazil spoke up in favor of Nicaragua. Why then does it not let the weapons being sent by Libya be brought to Nicaragua?

[Answer] [Daniel Ortega] This is the case of a donation from the Libyan Government and people to the Nicaraguan revolution. The planes with the weapons were coming, and problems arose in Brazil. There have been reports on all the problems they had in Brazil. There are different versions, we are waiting to see the outcome of this situation, because Brazil and Libya have very good relations. Brazil is a large weapons producer. It exports arms to many places and countries. They have good relations with Libya. They have all kinds of relations. This matter with the planes is being discussed. Apparently some arrangements are being made to allow the Libyan planes to leave with the weapons. Regarding this matter with Brazil, all that is left for us to do is wait for the results of the talks that the representatives of Brazil and Libya have been holding about this problem.

[Question] In the face of these aggressions there are always political replies, national as well as international. My question is: Is there any chance that the United States could change its policy toward Central America?

[Sergio Ramirez Mercado] We must understand, companeros, that we are waging a war on several fronts. The main front, of course, is the one on which you are participating, the military front -- not to allow the enemy to pass and to send them back to their homeland, to Honduras, where we obviously can't go after them. Our second front begins with the fact that we cannot follow them into Honduras -- the diplomatic and political front in which the revolution is involved. This rearguard is huge. The rearguard of this political battlefield is the world, and the front line for this rearguard is Latin America and even the United States. We, this rearguard, have just won a great battle at the United Nations. A resolution in support of Nicaragua and the peace efforts has just been issued. We are members of the UN Security Council, and the United States for the first time in its history was forced to vote in favor of the resolution.

This has put the Reagan government on the defensive despite all its arrogance and all the awful things it has said against peace.

This rearguard also implies a daily struggle at the United Nations and other international organizations. The economic area is another part of this great rearguard where the battle is also being fought. The United States reduced our sugar quota. Now we are fighting a political battle to denounce the United States at the various international organizations.

The main weapon that the revolution has for fighting on this front is its prestige, the huge prestige that Nicaragua won with its revolution. The United States may be richer and more powerful than we are, but with our moral power Nicaragua is a million times greater than the United States. We won this prestige not only because we made a revolution but also because we are willing to defend it, and every day you show this willingness to defend the revolution.

When I mentioned this rearguard I said that the United States was part of it. Why? Because Reagan's government has not been able to win over the U.S. people. Reagan's government has not been able to make the people of the United States side with aggression. As long as the people of the United States are not convinced by all the propaganda of the Reagan administration -- on which they spend millions of dollars every day -- that it is right for the Reagan administration to attack us; it will be more difficult to continue this aggression and to raise it to further stages -- which they want to do immediately. They are not happy that in this region of Jalapa many forces have tried to enter and have not been able to do so. They feel desperate. They want to pass to another stage of this aggression; but as long as we fight around the world with political weapons and with diplomatic weapons -- as we continue here to fire the rifles of the revolution to repel the enemy -- we make it more difficult for them to pass to other escalations in the aggression as they would like to with the support of the Honduran Army, the Central American fascist armies, and other forces.

[Question] There are certain church sectors that are firmly supporting counterrevolutionary activities and are telling our people that it is a sin to take up arms to defend our revolution. Therefore, we want the companero to tell us about measures that our government has taken to stop these anti-Christian and treacherous activities or attitudes of certain priests and Christian leaders.

[Cordova Rivas] When priests side with evil, they stop being priests immediately. Regarding the confrontation that they seek between the church [and the government], the government junta and the National Directorate will not permit that. They want to lead us to a direct and public confrontation between the Nicaraguan Government and the church. This is a confrontation that has no reason to exist, because there are 36 progressive priests who are with the revolution.

Regarding the second part of the question about what the junta will do with the anti-Christian priests who express support for the counterrevolution, the genocidal National Guard, the thieves and the criminals of the past, the government junta can do something in certain cases. In the case of foreign priests, it immediately expels them from our territory, as occurred with the [word indistinct] priest. However, when they are Nicaraguan priests, we cannot expel them from the country.

[Question] What is your opinion of bourgeois politicians who leave the country and cooperate with the counterrevolution inside the country? What is the government response to this?

[Ortega Saavedra] We have a situation right now in which certain rich people and certain millionaires who remained in Nicaragua pretending to be innocent and to be taking advantage of the flexibility of the revolution are appearing very enthusiastic and supportive of the counterrevolution now that they see the activities of the counter-revolution. Some are leaving the country to join the counterrevolution, and others are conspiring inside the country.

Regarding this, we must say that the revolution does not put up with this type of attitude. We are flexible and open. We are willing to accept all those who truly respect the laws of the revolution and do not plot against it. However, the revolutionary laws are immediately applied to those who leave the country and begin plotting. This is why several confiscations have been carried out against people who left the country. If these people were to return to the country, they would be immediately imprisoned. What these people have done is to leave and openly join the counter-revolution. Such is the case of the guy who was the manager of the Coca Cola Company -- Calero Portocarrero. The revolution gave him every opportunity to participate. He could have gone to the State Council if he so desired, but he decided to plot against the revolution and joined the Somozist guardsmen. He is not one of the leaders of the FDN [Nicaraguan Democratic Force]. Of course, if he should appear here, he would be immediately taken to jail and would appear before the Anti-Somozist People's Tribunals.

As for those plotting inside the country, we are keeping a permanent watch on them through the mass organization and the intelligence groups, the state security office, etc. Those found plotting against the revolution, well, we have laws. They would go to prison and would be tried immediately. Therefore, what we truly need right now is greater vigilance in that regard, so as not to permit this type of activity. Those who are not plotting have nothing to worry about. They have the chance to produce, abiding by the laws issued by the revolution.

[Question] Most of the companeros in this unit are peasants in the reserves. What measures can be taken so that when we are demobilized we can defend our [word indistinct] and our community, and so that we can defend our communities from the bands in our areas and at the same time improve the productive activities of our villages?

[Guerrilla Commander Javier Pichardo] There is a plan aimed at organizing all the reservists of this battalion in territorial militia units. This means that a plan is already underway. As soon as you are demobilized, you will be organized in militia units with your weapons. This has already been organized. The battalion chief already knows about it. Everything is taken care of. There is nothing to worry about. When you are demobilized, you will already be organized in territorial militia units. So there are no problems in that respect.

[Ortega Saavedra] We want to add something else. The peasants who are mobilized must have heard about the measures that are being implemented in regard to the agrarian reform's land distribution. We must say that there is already a policy on this. When the time comes to distribute land, the family of the mobilized companeros -- if the companero has been mobilized -- will come first. They will receive the lands that are being distributed by the Agricultural Development Ministry through the agrarian reform. Therefore, this is also part of the specific measures that the Nicaraguan revolution has implemented in regard to the defense of its territory. In other words, the mobilized peasant will have the chance to have a rifle to defend the people and to have land to produce and help in the defense of the revolution.

[Question] I am from the heroic city of Esteli. What reply has the Honduran Government given to all the protest notes we've sent?

[Ramirez Mercado] Unfortunately, companero, the reply is nothing. All the replies from the Honduran Government are very cynical. We can't even say there is a Honduran Government. We say there is a government when the government governs. However, this Honduran Government is being ruled by the will of the United States. The person who is really in command in Tegucigalpa is the chief of the CIA operations in Central America: the U.S. ambassador whose last name is Negroponte. This Negroponte guy gives all the orders to the Honduran Army. The Honduran Army has authority over the president of the republic, who is an old man who has nothing to do with everything that is happening there. He has nothing to do with the abuses of that army headed by a man named Alvarez in support for the genocidal guard. Therefore, the Honduran Foreign Secretariat might answer the protest notes we send them every day....[changes thought] Every time an incident occurs, no matter how small, our Foreign Ministry sends a protest note. At least the protest note will be recorded in history. They are always replying that we are the aggressors, that there are no Somozist guardsmen in Honduras....[interrupted by Ortega Saavedra]

[Ortega Saavedra] That there are no camps.

[Ramirez Mercado] That there are no camps and that we are making that up. So it is a very ridiculous position. They have nothing else to say because they have the Yankee boot on their necks. It is a government that has not freedom to move. It is a government that has no will or chance to oppose this large U.S. invasion they are suffering. The first country that the United States has invaded in Central America is Honduras. They couldn't invade Nicaragua and El Salvador; but Honduras is truly occupied and invaded.

[Question] I am a permanent member of unit 27-50 of Esteli. Taking into consideration that at this time our enemy has increased its counterrevolutionary actions along our border and that our key mission is to repeal this aggression and increase our fighting spirit -- this fighting spirit is guaranteed and is well demonstrated by our permanent troops and reserve units -- we want to know what are the chances, according to our economic capacity, for the implementation of some kind of military service [service militar]?]

[Ortega Saavedra] We have contemplated the implementation of a military service, but it cannot be implemented as fast as we would like. A study project has been done on this. The revolution has the desire to establish a military service in this country, and we will seek the right moment to establish it. In the meantime, we will have to continue to resort to the political work in the neighborhoods through mass organizations and in the rural areas through unions, cooperatives and various organizations, including UNAG [National Union of Farmers and Cattlemen], to get more combatants for the reserve battalions and to have a larger participation by the people in the defense of their revolution. The people have the will and the fighting spirit. Therefore, we must organize all this fighting spirit.

GRANMA 'IMPERIALIST HYSTERIA' EDITORIAL, PART 1

FL241830 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 24 May 83

[Cuba's Communist Party organ, GRANMA, 24 May editorial entitled: "Imperialist Hysteria," read by announcer -- live]

[Text] Reagan has just closed a shameful show [given in English] in Miami with the counterrevolutionary worms. Welcomed, according to news reports, with cheers and screams of "Reagan, liberate Cuba" coming from the traitors who have in time largely renounced Cuban citizenship for U.S. citizenship, Reagan went to a Cuban restaurant in the area where he tasted the typical Caribbean fare of black beans, red beans and rice, and fried plantains. The date of the carnival-like spectacle was carefully selected as 20 May, the day 81 years ago -- more or less when Reagan was born -- when the neo-colonial Yankee republic was installed in our fatherland.

The speech read by Reagan and the improvisations he succeeded in inserting before a happy representation of Cuban counterrevolutionary excrescence in a Miami auditorium contained an unenviable inventory of the lack of political, cultural, ethical, and moral values -- just to name a few -- which characterize the current U.S. president. The ultrareactionary ideology and the messianic anticommunism expressed by the President of the United States ever since his arrival on the political scene of his country have been, to be sure, his most outstanding credentials. It is therefore not very surprising that the most powerful of all capitalist nations, just halfway through Ronald Reagan's term in the White House, has formed a close alliance with the most bestial regimes in the world in his fierce counterrevolutionary crusade.

There is also nothing new in the fact that the political insensitivity which the Republican administration has applied in representing the United States has placed the world in a dark period of sharp international tensions and on the path of the most intense arms race in the last 3 decades, heralding a very grave and real danger of nuclear devastation.

The reactionary precepts were, of course, evident in the spectacle put on by Reagan and the anachronistic Miami exiles, whom Reagan himself called "a group of Americans," to commemorate no less than the proclamation of the false independence of Cuha in 1902. Our more recent history, which marked the restoration of the true Cuban national traditions, has known how to definitely put that date of 20 May in the proper perspective as a sad day, a day which represented the culmination of Yankee meddling in Cuba and led only to the birth of a republic under the conditions of the Platt amendment and the most brutal imperialist domination over our homeland.

Seldom would one be able to recognize the coincidence of lack of values between the orator, the audience, and the commemoration as was evident on 20 May in the Cuban-American National Foundation of Dade County, sponsor of the aforementioned gathering. However, the really outstanding thing about this meeting was not the manifest proof of Reagan's primitive ideological package but the spectacular ignorance which the President of the United States again demonstrated. With clear electoral aims and evidently out to court the Hispanic vote -- which supposedly amounts to 15 million, primarily in the states of California, Texas, and Florida -- the President of the United States wasted no time in presiding over one of the most ridiculous demonstrations ever in the Yankee-Hispanic eclectic style of politicking, flattering nostalgic ears with a string of historical lies and empty phrases befitting the level of his select audience.

Perhaps since that day in 1962 when another president of the United States received a flag, not exactly covered with glory, from the defeated Giron invaders and promised the invaders he would return the flag to them in Havana, the White House anti-Cuban policy had never reached such ridiculous and simplistic levels as in the 20 May speech of Ronald Reagan, a speech made after a flashy luncheon of native Cuban dishes at the fake Esquina de Tejas [Restaurant] in the ill-named Little Havana of Miami.

It is a well-known fact that in his speeches, the President of the United States gives an air of spontaneity to the ideas that others write for him. But he is completely responsible for the threatening and provocative tone once again used against Cuba. He is also responsible for his scant knowledge to be able to question the work of the Cuban revolution. Among many other examples, the lack of the most basic common sense was demonstrated by his praise of what the President of the United States called the strong independent labor movement which existed in Cuba prior to 1959, which was destroyed by a regime which shouts slogans of its concern for the workers.

If Mr Reagan is referring to the corrupt trade unions dominated by Mujalism [former Cuban labor leader Eusebio Mujal], favored by the Batista regime, and sponsored by the no less corrupt U.S. labor movement represented by the AFL/CIO, he would be right in regretting its extinction even if he is not aware of or tries to ignore the existence of legitimate trade union democracy in Cuba. The Cuban trade unions identify with and develop the true labor traditions of the Cuban proletariat, which have nothing to do with the grieving of the current President of the United States.

The Cuban labor movement is certainly proud of the struggle waged by its true labor leaders such as Jesus Menendez and many others, murdered by the system defended by the U.S. President, which system succeeded in transforming the trade unions existing prior to 1959 into a real repressive bureaucracy, capable of imposing on the workers, among other appalling measures, the inflammatory mandatory trade union quota, indicative of the unpopular nature of the official prerevolutionary trade unions, among other examples. Cuba today has one of the highest rates of trade union affiliation in the world and its workers have a true and effective participation in [the nation's] economic and business matters through many forms of true labor democracy.

Also lacking in ethics was the slander that Cuba has repressed the church when the everyday reality in our country is the best demonstration that the principle of freedom of belief and worship, guaranteed by the socialist constitution, is fully exercised with the respect of the state and society for any citizen who may wish to practice it.

When the President of the United States dares to assert that in our country Cuban youths are forced to enter the armed forces and are sent to far-off lands where hundreds of them have lost their lives fighting for a foreign government and supporting leaders who have no popular support, he not only shows a lack scruples in falsifying the reasons, recognized by the international community, which have motivated Cuban assistance to countries threatened by imperialism in their most authentic aspirations for independence and sovereignty, but attempts to ignore the internationalist and revolutionary conviction which encourages Cubans who have participated in these missions with pride and determination.

Over 120,000 reservists, soldiers, and officers of our armed forces have, voluntarily in all cases, fulfilled honorable internationalist tasks in Angola and Ethiopia and 10 times that number of Cubans have volunteered to take part in them, fulfilling the heroic and revolutionary traditions of our people, which are very different from those presented in the Cuban-American auditorium where Ronald Reagan was heard.

That audience, like the president of the United States, obviously views these realities, which are quite different from the Cuba they abandoned over 20 years ago, as incomprehensible. It is therefore impossible for the President or his audience to understand the notion that hundreds of thousands of Cubans may compete for the assignments to go and fulfill an assistance mission to other nations threatened or attacked. They cannot understand that anyone would selflessly volunteer for a risky task. They would much less be able to imagine that this would be a source of pride for their families, comrades, and all the people of Cuba who certainly know where they are, why they are there, and what their sons are defending far from the fatherland.

Reagan, of course, failed to mention that Cuba not only has soldiers abroad but also doctors, nurses, teachers, professors, construction workers, and technicians in diverse specialities who fulfilling their duty in 34 Third World countries which the United States and other capitalist powers looted and sacked for a long time.

Similarly lacking in honesty was the lying and shameless assertion that there is now strong evidence that officials of the Castro government participate in the drug trade, profiting from the misery of the drug addicts. The Cuban Government has on separate occasions challenged the U.S. Administration to come up with at least one shred of evidence of this alleged participation in the drug trade, which is no more than a new campaign to discredit Cuba, which paradoxically stands accused of fomenting a U.S.-society vice whose eradication in our country, as a matter of fact, constitutes one of the reasons for, and achievements of, the revolution.

Frankly, it would seem an unlikely story that the President of a country in which the proliferation of social ills such as drug addiction, prostitution in all its forms, and degenerations such as generalized pornography which would turn the legendary cities of Sodom and Gomorrah pale would accuse Cuban officials and, by implication, our government, of fomenting a drug trade which needs no fomenting in the United States.

As has already been pointed out on one occasion, any one of the Cuban officials falsely accused by the U.S. Government of participation in drug traffic has sufficient dignity, decency, and moral values to give to everyone in the Republican administration which slanders them and, we may add, particularly sufficient to give a good portion to its President, who seems to be the one most in need of them.

For reasons of strict consideration for the people of the United States, and not because of contractual considerations, which do not exist, nor because of moral demands which may be made of a country subjected to the criminal imperialist blockade, Cuban policy has been to systematically fight the international drug traffic. As a matter of fact, we have been the guardians of the Caribbean against the drug traffic, having absolutely no obligation to do so. Hundreds of Colombians, North Americans, worms of Cuban heritage, and citizens of other nationalities have been arrested in the neighborhood of Cuba and fined in an exemplary manner when they make stopovers on our shores or find themselves forced to land in our territory. Reagan's cynical charges, as much as he might try to repeat them in Goebbels' style, deserve our most profound scorn.

[Announcer] Due to the length of this GRANMA editorial entitled: "Imperialist Hysteria," we will read its second part tomorrow on this program.

UN ACTION DEMANDED ON NAMIBIA STALEMATE

FL242141 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2032 GMT 24 May 83

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca has stated that the UN Security Council should set a date to apply the new measures it must adopt on its resolution No 435 on Namibia's independence. In a speech at the UN Security Council discussing the topic of decolonialization of Namibia, Malmierca noted that, if that body does not fulfill its duties, the Namibian people will continue and intensify their armed struggle that the imperialist countries fear. He said that his statement is not a threat, but an unavoidable and irreversible law of mankind.

Malmierca stated that if the U.S. Administration and the Pretoria regime persist in impeding the solution of the conflict, the UN Charter provides sanctions that should be imposed on the racist offender to carry out the body's decisions.

Some states might be able to veto the attempts to solve the Namibian problem more than once, they might be able to carry out all types of maneuvering, but what they will not be able to impede is that sooner or later the people will win, Foreign Minister Malmierca stated.

Malmierca criticized the maneuvers of the so-called contact group, formed by the United States, France, Canada, the FRG and Great Britain. Since then, he explained, South Africa and the United States have subtly, tenaciously, and systematically opposed the UN plan on the application of resolution 435 by using delaying tactics in the negotiating process. Malmierca noted that Washington and Pretoria have even advanced the unacceptable idea of tying Namibia's independence to the withdrawal of Cuban internationalist forces from Angola.

In his speech, Isidoro Malmierca recounted the support the Nonaligned Countries Movement has given to the Namibian people in their struggle for independence. Our countries, Malmierca added, have pledged their moral, material, financial, military, political, humanitarian, and diplomatic assistance to the South-West African People's Organization, the only legitimate representative of the Namibian people.

Malmierca noted that the Seventh Nonaligned Countries Summit Conference had urged the UN Security Council to examine new measures as soon as possible aimed at applying the plan for Namibia's independence. He stressed that Cuba is sure that the UN Security Council will fulfill its historic duty and that, in deciding the unconditional independence of Namibia, it will make an inestimable contribution to peace.

CUBA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA SIGN TRANSPORTATION ACCORD

FL242048 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2009 GMT 24 May 83

[Text] In Prague, Cuba and Czechoslovakia today signed an agreement on cooperation in the sphere of international transportation of goods, which will be in effect until 1985.

The signing ceremony took place at the conclusion of the talks held by the CSSR Foreign Trade Ministry and the Cuban Transportation Ministry.

COMMITTEE FORMED TO SUPPORT PRAGUE PEACE MEETING

FL241535 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1400 GMT 24 May 83

[Text] The Cuban National Committee in support of the World Assembly for Peace and Life Against Nuclear War has been formed in Havana with 29 representatives of various social and cultural sectors.

Jose Ramirez Cruz, alternate member of the Politburo and president of the National Association of Small Farmers, presides over the committee, which will support the important meeting to be held in the Czechoslovak capital from 21 to 26 June. Severo Aguirre, member of the Central Committee of the party and of the Council of State and president of the Cuban Movement for the Peace and Sovereignty of Peoples, is first vice president. Other vice presidents are Nicolas Guillen, president of the National Union of Cuban Writers and Artists; Col Arnoldo Tamayo of the Patriotic-Military Education Society; and Melba Hernandez, secretary general of the Afro-Asian-Latin American People's Solidarity Organization.

FRENCH TRANSPORT MINISTER HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

FL241821 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 24 May 83

[Text] French Minister of Transportation Charles Fiterman discussed the specific areas in the field of transport in which France will offer cooperation to our country during a press conference held in this capital. He referred to the work that will be done in the Havana tunnel and to the need for developing an advanced technology for road building projects. He also stressed the possibility of forming specialized teams in the various branches of transport and the progressive development of trade between the two countries.

Ends Visit, Departs

FL242156 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2035 GMT 24 May 83

[Text] French Minister of Transportation Charles Fiterman was seen off at the Jose Marti International Airport in this capital by commander of the Revolution Guillermo Garcia Frias, member of the Politburo and minister of transportation. Fiterman paid a 3-day official visit to Cuba and participated in the inauguration of the Havana-Paris air route. During his stay in our country, he visited places of economic and historic interest.

MONTANE SPEECH MARKS AFRICAN SOLIDARITY DAY

FL241150 Havana Domestic Service Spanish 1000 GMT 24 May 83

[Text] Alternate Politburo member Jesus Montane has reiterated the solidarity of the party, government, and people of Cuba with all those who fight colonialism, neo-colonialism, apartheid, and all other kinds of oppression throughout the world.

Montane delivered the closing remarks at the main ceremony marking the Day of Solidarity With Africa held at FAR Universal Hall in Havana. The ceremony was also presided over by alternate Politburo member Armando Acosta and representatives of state and mass organizations.

The party leader denounced the maneuvers of the imperialists and their allies to obstruct the application of UN Resolution 435 aimed at achieving a negotiated settlement of the Namibian problem. He also condemned imperialists' plans to make Namibian independence dependent on the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola in order to hinder the search for a negotiated settlement favorable to that African nation, which has been subjected to cruel discrimination and abuse at the hands of the racist regime; just as that regime has discriminated against and abused the South African blacks who are being dominated by a white minority.

BRIEFS

DEATH OF GARCIA INCLAN -- The well-known journalist Guido Garcia Inclan, founder and director of Radio Periodico, died yesterday. He will be buried at Colon Cemetery in Havana this morning. [Summary] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 18 May 83 FL]

DELEGATION VISITS ITALY -- Rome -- Rene Rodriguez, president of the Cuban Institute of Friendship With Peoples [ICAP], has arrived in the Italian capital leading an ICAP delegation on a visit to that European country. [Text] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1758 GMT 19 May 83 FL]

POLISH WOMEN'S LEADERS -- Zofia Grzyb, member of the Politburo of the Polish United Workers' Party and president of the Women's Commission, was received at Jose Marti International Airport this morning by Vilma Espin, alternate member of the Politburo of our party and president of the Federation of Cuban Women. The Polish women's leader was accompanied by Jadwiga Biedrzycka, president of the Polish League of Women, and (Eugenia Nikolayva), an official of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party [Excerpt] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 May 83 FL]

MALTA MILITARY ORDER AMBASSADOR -- Cuban Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez has received Mr (Fernando Espay y Cuenca Benette), who presented his credentials accrediting him as ambassador of the Sovereign and Military Order of Malta. [Excerpt] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 May 83 FL]

BARBADOSST JOHN ADDRESSES BRUSSELS ACP MEETING

FL190039 Bridgetown CANA in English 2238 GMT 18 May 83

[Text] Brussels, May 18, CANA -- Barbados' deputy prime minister, Bernard St John, leading the Barbados delegation to the 30th session of the Council of Ministers of 63 African, Caribbean, and Pacific countries (ACP), told a plenary session of the council that the Caribbean like all ACP countries "had put the first and second conventions of Lome in the balance and found them wanting."

St John is the current spokesman for the Caribbean group in the tricontinental economic association which is linked to the European Community by an economic cooperation treaty signed at Lome, capital of the West African Republic of Togo, on October 31, 1979.

St John called on the meeting, which is discussing common strategy for the negotiations for a new convention due to begin this September, to seize the initiative in determining the agenda for the dialogue with their treaty partners putting an end to what he called "the tradition of mainly reacting to what the Europeans throw into the negotiating ring."

St John then put forward a series of preliminary ideas concerning the structure of any future convention. Caribbean countries, he said, believe there is a good case for a convention lasting longer than the five year duration of the first two Lome accords, "if only because of the fact that halfway through the convention our energies get taken up with negotiating a successor arrangement."

ACP countries should insist that the new convention contain adequate provisions for "joint management not just in form but in substance." The new arrangement must moreover "contribute to creating a capacity in the ACP states for self-sustaining development" and must contain provisions to prevent erosion of the benefits it purports to offer.

"We must ensure that there will be no provision on any subject that amounts to a reversal of the most advanced position achieved in that subject area in other international fora," the Caribbean spokesman told the gathering.

It should also be made clear, he said, that much of the economic difficulties being suffered by a number of ACP countries could be traced partially to the failure of the first two conventions to achieve their objectives.

"We should seek to build a consciousness of the link between European recovery and economic growth in the development countries, including the ACP states which comprise a critical market for European capital goods and consumer articles and a vital source of their raw materials," he said.

The ACP council meeting, which ends today, is the first of a series of meetings being held this week in Brussels in connection with the implementation of the Lome accords. This morning saw a joint session of ACP and EEC representatives at which the financial and technical cooperation aspects of the treaty were discussed.

Starting tomorrow, ACP ministers and their ten European counterparts begin a two-day session on a list of urgent topics falling under the treaty, with a special session devoted to the difficulties some ACP countries are experiencing with the workings of the export stabilisation scheme (Stabex) which is one of the innovations of the Lome accords. The sessions are expected to end Friday evening.

JAMAICA

SHEARER TO VOICE NONALIGNED VIEW ON NAMIBIA

FL241040 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 24 May 83

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Hugh Shearer is to address the UN Security Council today on the Namibia issue. Mr Shearer will speak for Jamaica as one of the countries selected by the Nonaligned Movement to present its point of view on Namibia to the world community.

The deputy prime minister is also expected to underline the determination of Jamaica and the Nonaligned Movement to press the international community for strong collective action against South Africa. The meeting at the United Nations started yesterday and was requested by the African Group.

Other speakers are expected to focus on the absence of progress by the Western Group to force South Africa to grant independence to Namibia. The Western Group includes Britain, Canada, France, the United States, and West Germany.

A release from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that in January of this year South Africa tightened its grip on the neighboring territory by assuming direct control over Namibia. Some observers feel that South Africa intends to annex Namibia outright.

Mr Shearer just finished attending the Council of Ministers meeting on African, Caribbean, and Pacific states in Geneva.

MEXICOHAVANA REPORTS GROMYKO-MEXICAN ENVOY MEETING

FL242039 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1826 GMT 24 May 83

[Text] USSR Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko has received in his Kremlin office Mexican Ambassador to the USSR Horacio Flores de la Pena. During the talks, the two sides expressed their mutual satisfaction over the development of Soviet-Mexican relations and the willingness of the two sides to deepen mutually beneficial cooperation in various spheres. During the exchange of views on the world situation of reciprocal interest, Gromyko stressed the constructive and idealistic nature of foreign policy initiatives submitted by CPSU Secretary General Yuriy Andropov.

Horacio Flores de la Pena highly valued the Soviet Union's contribution to the strengthening of international peace and to the reduction of the danger of a nuclear war.

URUGUAYCOSTA RICAN VICE PRESIDENT ARRIVES FOR VISIT

PY240134 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 23 May 83

[Excerpt] As of this morning Costa Rica's first vice president, Alberto Fait Lizano, is an official guest of our government. He will stay in our country for approximately 24 hours and will hold several meetings. Shortly after his arrival in our capital, Fait Lizano started his visit by meeting with the foreign minister.

Meets Alvarez

PY250040 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2351 GMT 23 May 83

[Excerpts] Montevideo, 23 May (EFE) -- Costa Rican Vice President Alberto Fait Lizano said today that Costa Rica tries to strengthen its contacts with Latin American countries to make South-South dialogue more practical.

In a press conference held at the Costa Rican Embassy in Montevideo, Fait Lizano explained the situation in Central America, pointing out his confidence that the Contadora Group -- in accordance with his government's request -- is in a position to pacify the area. He said that Uruguayan President Gregorio Alvarez is interested in this matter and that he indicated that his government is willing to cooperate with proposals made by Costa Rica on Central America.

Regarding Uruguay in particular, the vice president said that his mission is mainly of an economic nature and that it will conclude with the signing of an agreement between the two countries. Fait Lizano -- who met with Uruguayan President Gregorio Alvarez, Foreign Minister Carlos Maeso and State Council President Hamlet Reyes -- disclosed that a mixed commission will be created within 30 days to put into operation an effective trade system.